

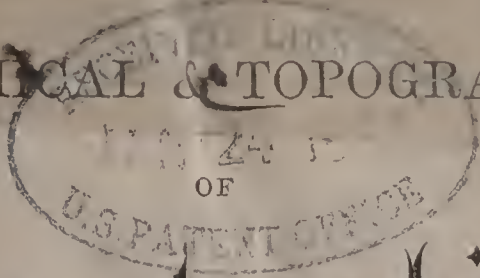
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TRALIAN HAND-BOOK

ETCHES,

GEOGRAPHICAL & TOPOGRAPHICAL,



Australia,

AND A CONCISE HISTORY OF

THE GOLD DISCOVERY.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS, THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF, THE
GOLD REGULATIONS, &c.

COMPILED

BY THOMAS BATCHELAR.



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P R E F A C E.

A mighty commonwealth is fast rising on the shores of the Southern Pacific: a collateral branch of the same human family with ourselves: one, by blood, by language, and by religion. Yes! a younger brother is fast approaching manhood! It behoves us, therefore, at least, to extend to him a brother's solicitude and a brother's love! Let us not point the finger of scorn, with pharasaical contumely, to the origin of his birth! sufficient be it for us to know, that he possesses the stalwart energy and virtues of his race in his advancing years. Then let us assist to guide him on his way. There must be no narrow-mindedness—no churlishness! Give a generous sympathy and a generous aid. Let us “be a lamp unto his feet and a guide unto his path”—“a city set on a hill that cannot be hid”—that when he does attain his majority we may truly and joyfully hail him into the family of nations, and fully realize “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

It was with feelings akin to these, and a desire to direct the attention of our citizens to the vast resources and capabilities of a country destined to be “the third great empire of the world, having for its basis the social, political, industrial and religious principles of the Anglo-Saxon mind,” and whose history had been to us, till recently, as it were almost a sealed book, that the compilation of this little work was undertaken; and not with any view to excite the cupidity of the reader, by pointing out only to that golden lottery, the immense mineral wealth of Australia. Already a great trade has sprung up between the two countries, which must continue steadily and largely to increase, and cargoes of American bread stuffs, provisions, manufactures and miscellanies have found a ready sale and realized handsome profits.

A knowledge of Australia is, therefore, indispensably necessary: and the compiler, with this view, has carefully drawn from original communications, assisted by the works of colonial writers, &c., this series of articles on the geography, topography, resources, &c., of that immense country, which he hopes will prove useful as well as instructive to his fellow citizens and the community at large.

T. B.

AUSTRALIAN SKETCHES.

CURSORY VIEW OF AUSTRALIA.

DISCOVERY.

AUSTRALIA was discovered as early as the year 1606 by the Dutch, and the north-west, west and southern coasts were explored by them, and the name of *New Holland* was given by them to the country; it was visited by an English exploring expedition, under Captain Dampier, in 1668-9; but the general sterility of her coasts, and her miserable aboriginal inhabitants—ranking among the lowest in the scale of humanity—presented but little to tempt the cupidity of European powers to form settlements on her shores.

In 1770, the great circumnavigator Cook surveyed the eastern and north-eastern shores, which he called *New South Wales*, from their resemblance to the coast of South Wales, in Britain.

PENAL SETTLEMENT FOUNDED.

In 1788, the British government, upon the recommendation of Captain Cook, founded a penal settlement, on the eastern coast, at Port Jackson, on the spot where now stands the large and flourishing city of Sydney, the metropolis of Australia.

The French revolution and the wars arising out of it (which took place immediately after the first settlement), completely absorbed the public mind of Europe, and the consequence was that the British were left in undisturbed possession of the country; though the French at the time of the British settling, had a notion of locating on that part of the country, now forming the province of Victoria, the most valuable portion of the continent of Australia, and for that purpose sent out an exploring

expedition under the command of the unfortunate and lamented Le Perouse.

From these causes, Australia has escaped those calamities which afflicted the early settlers of this country. Her settlers have had no warlike native tribes nor hostile European powers to contend against. The blood of her citizens has never irrigated her soil—her wives have never been made widows and her children orphans—neither have her cities and towns been sacked—her homesteads laid waste—her altars desecrated—by internal wars. No minister of Christ (*q.* priest of Baal) has, as yet, consecrated her banners, and thus given his sanctimonious countenance to that damning scourge of humanity—that stereotyped lie to Christianity—“all-glorious war!” She has begun in peace, and may she continue in peace till the end of time: and thus prove in this, as in most other things, that she is “a land of contraries!”

From the origin of the settlement of Australia, she has been looked upon by the civilized portion of the world, as a great moral pesthouse—the receptacle for the offscouring of British vice and pollution. True, for a quarter of a century she continued to be a penal colony, cramped up within a narrow strip of land between the Blue Mountains and the South Pacific Ocean, and few, but those who “left their country for their country’s good,” ventured to settle on her shores.

PASSAGE OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

In 1813, Mr. W. C. Wentworth and a few other enterprising settlers, found a passage across that hitherto impassable barrier the Blue Mountains, and drew back the veil which had so long hid from civilized man the vast and fertile regions of the interior. This discovery induced some officers of the British army stationed in the colony and a few free settlers to turn their attention to sheep farming and the raising of cattle.

From that time, the pastoral, agricultural and horticultural resources of the country began to develop themselves and a continuous stream of free immigrants poured into the colony. New

discoveries were made and settlements spread rapidly. The valetudinarian officers of the British army—the civilians and merchants of Bengal, Madras and Bombay—enervated by the sickly climate of Eastern India—hastened to resuscitate and revivify their worn-out frames in the mild and invigorating air of Australia. Flocks of sheep and herds of horned cattle multiplied without number, and wool and tallow became the staple commodities of the country, and the demand for agricultural laborers and shepherds was incessant and increasing.

CONVICT TRANSPORTATION CEASES.

With the increase of free settlers, convict transportation to continental Australia—restricted in 1836—finally ceased in 1840; and was thereafter confined to the island of Van Diemen's Land and Norfolk Island, a small but beautiful island in the Pacific Ocean, about 1200 miles east of Sydney.

The newly-settled provinces of West and South Australia and Victoria, and the islands of New Zealand, were never penal colonies; and it may be presumed that there are at this time (1853) no transported convicts from Britain within the province of New South Wales, except some who may have escaped from Van Diemen's Land.

In 1842, the province of New South Wales underwent a state of transition, and a colony of free men, with elective municipal and legislative institutions, took the place of convict felony and the old system of nomination by the colonial office in Downing Street.

Pending the discussion of the bill granting municipal corporations to the cities and counties, a general convention of delegates of mechanics and laborers was holden at Sydney, to consider the subject of the franchise as proposed by the bill. A deputation of three (one of whom, an intimate friend of the writer of this sketch, then a journeymen printer in Sydney, now the proprietor and printer of the *Maitland Mercury*, at Maitland, N. S. W.,) was appointed to wait upon Sir George Gipps, the governor-general, to urge upon him the necessity of a low

rate of qualification. The question was discussed between them; and the governor, notwithstanding his British predilections against "mob government," acquiesced with the members of the deputation, and impressed their views on the Legislative Council, and, in consequence, the platform as laid down by the working men at Sydney became the basis of the elective franchise in the provinces of New South Wales and Victoria.

MRS. CAROLINE CHISHOLM.

About this time arrived in the colony, Mrs. Caroline Chisholm, a woman of high moral character, sound judgment, and strong and determined mind—one destined to be, in the hands of the Almighty, the humble instrument in the great work of Australian regeneration. Her husband, a captain in the Anglo-Indian army, was led in pursuit of health to Sydney; and an incident in the life of an "unprotected female," (See *Memoirs of Mrs. Chisholm*,) ere long opened Mrs. Chisholm's eyes to the state of colonial society and to the condition of the poor immigrants, especially the females. It was computed at the time that Mrs. C. commenced her labors in Sydney, there were in that city six hundred females wandering about unprovided for! This evil and the mismanagement it revealed she determined to remedy. She proposed a "Female Emigrants' Home," or rather she established it, and struggled with it unaided, and under the most desponding circumstances. The clergy doubted, the press hesitated, and the governor (Sir George Gipps) regarded her as a "lady laboring under amiable delusions." But she persevered, overcame all obstacles, and won universal respect. The work she so earnestly coveted, she got all to do. It devolved upon her, to "well govern, well feed, and well place," thousands of immigrants. She became matrimonial agent for the whole colony. She undertook journeys of hundreds of miles into the interior, with the families under her charge. And such was the hospitality every where shown to her, that her personal expenses, during seven years' service in this kind of work, amounted to only nine dollars. Since her return to England she has de-

voted herself to the promotion of family colonization in a manner which has commanded the confidence of all parties, while it has developed her extraordinary faculties for organization and government. A truly queenly woman, and by divine right too! By late accounts from England, we find she is about to sail from Southampton to the country of her adoption, in charge of nine hundred young orphan women, in a new ship, called after herself, the "Caroline Chisholm."

Douglas Jerrold, writing of this vessel, says,—“In a vessel for emigration the presence of Caroline Chisholm is a guarantee for order, safety and morality. With a courage more than masculine—with a devotion surpassing that of woman—this lady has worked out a noble thought and put into practice a just and generous system. If ever human creature deserved honors, pensions, statues, from a grateful people—she deserves them. She has not merely stimulated emigration—taught the poor to look without fear on a voyage to the land of gold—but she has helped to take the power of oppression, chicanery and deception out of wicked hands, and to render the transfer of families to the ends of the earth, easy, safe and comfortable. In one word, she has made emigration MORAL.”

THE GOLD DISCOVERY.

A few years and another phase has arrived. A beacon light has shone in the wilderness, and thrown its *golden* rays over the fertile fields and valleys of Australia. What could not be done by writers and speakers, or by grants of the provincial legislatures, to induce a large amount of emigration, has been done by the vision of a gold mine!

We will not discuss what might have been the condition of these colonies had gold been discovered some twenty-five years ago, when they were one vast prison-house, and three-fourths of the people were felons or emancipists. Wisely has it been ordained by an over-ruling Providence that these provinces should have become possessed of a population containing an average amount of order and virtue, and that schools, col-

leges and churches should have taken the places of police stations, barracks and jails, before the earth disclosed its riches.

Gold ! almighty gold ! where is the man who will not take a voyage to the antipodes to become possessed of thee ? Behold ! the country which was the other day a by-word and a reproach is now become the desired of all nations, and thousands upon thousands are rushing to her shores ! There is wealth in the wilderness. Cupidity has felt the mighty stimulus, shoulders the pick, and is off for the diggings. A better spirit than this is also awakened by the movement. New light breaks in on the public mind. The gold nugget is not fit for eating nor the molten ore for drink. The diggings are beginning to render their best service by drawing attention to the prospects of prosperity which the resources of the country opens for intelligent industry. While the sordid speculator hopes to pick up a rich lump of gold, with which to return, the real emigrant goes to live a new life in a new country. He has left behind him the conventionalisms and remnants of feudalism of the old world, and learns the lessons of self-dependence and self-support. It is not ignorant pauperism that is now mainly on the move. Men of industrial habits, of acute observation, of independent thought are marching in the van, and with these hosts of earnest, teachable, aspiring youths, ready to take the impress of a new region, and adapt themselves to the new, but wholesome, modes of realizing the means and enjoyments of existence which it requires. These are the founders of the republics of futurity.

It is refreshing amid this golden excitement to find that some of the Australian colonists have remained sufficiently cool to argue calmly the relative advantages of a country of gold or no gold. This calmness is prevalent to a considerable extent among the better class of settlers in the province of South Australia. They have a good word for the moderate fruits of ordinary industry. They can turn cheerfully from gold in nuggets to gold in wheat sheaves. And truly this picture has two sides,

which the intending emigrant would do well to ponder. Let him well consider a remark of a writer in the *British Quarterly Review*—"that the acquiring the means of enjoyment without vigorous exertion seems contrary to the economical laws of the universe." Indeed, judging from the nations of antiquity, and from the nations at present in existence—the United States, Britain, Holland, &c.—we shall find that it is not gold that makes nations wealthy—but it is labor—persevering labor—whether in the field, the factory or the counting room; and, further, let him bear in mind, that it is an educated, intellectual and moral people that can alone form and sustain a self governing state.

Oh! that the multitudes who are wending their way to the shores of Australia would awaken from their dream of "gold, gold, nothing but gold," and turn their attention to the boundless capabilities of the land of their adoption: to the soil that will yield them "thirty, sixty and a hundred fold;" to the flocks and herds whose increase has been, and will yet be, almost incalculable; to the trade which the wool and the various agricultural produce will ere long open up to them: to all those rich and varied resources of a land, which, in the emphatic language of scripture, has been truly described as "a land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive and honey; a land where thou shalt eat bread without scarceness. Thou shalt not lack any thing in it."

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AUSTRALIA.

EXTENT.

THIS immense island, or more properly continent, lies between the parallels of 10 deg. 45 min. and 38 deg. 45 min. S., and the meridians of 112 deg. 20 min. and 153 deg. 30 min. E. of Greenwich. It is separated on the north from the islands of New Guinea and the Moluccas by Torres Straits, and from Timor and other islands in the Eastern Archipelago by the Arafura Sea; on the south from Van Diemen's Land by Bass' Straits. Its eastern and southern shores are laved by the Pacific: its western and north-western by the Indian Ocean. Its extreme breadth, from the northern point of Cape York to the southern point of Wilson's Promontory, is 1960 miles, and its extreme length, from Lennox Head on the east to Port Grey on the west coast, is 2400 miles. The coast line is marked by deep gulfs, fine bays and capacious harbors, and is computed to exceed 8000 miles. The territorial area is estimated at three millions of square miles. It is at present divided into the following provinces: New South Wales, on the east and north-east; Victoria, on the south-east; South Australia, on the south; and West Australia, on the north-west, west and south-west.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The appearance of the country seems to indicate that it is of diluvian rather than of volcanic origin, but different causes may have operated conjointly in its formation; after having been left partially dry by the receding of the sea from the north to the south pole, some powerful submarine action (as in the case of Chili) may have raised the crust of our globe in this spot, above the ocean level, either at one shock or by a series of successive shocks.

Diversity of surface and aspect produce in Australia diversity of appearance. Forest timber, brushwood and grasses are not divided into zones, as in other countries, according to their elevation; the nature of the soil and the proximity of water seem to determine the class of productions irrespective of latitude or altitude. In many places the whole face of the country has the appearance of a landscape garden—a grove here, a lawn there—beyond a shrubbery, or clump of trees, and frequently a natural wall of light colored stone, scarcely to be detected from good masonry, and appearing through the foliage like the enclosure of a parterre. The various explorers of the interior found these apparent “pleasure grounds” of various sizes, suited to the humble cottage or princely mansion. “Even in my own limited experience of these strange regions,” says Martin, “I have felt it difficult to realize the fact, that so far from having been adorned by the hand of civilized man, they were untrodden, save by the foot of the wandering savage.”

Capt. Sturt, by far the greatest of Australian discoverers, and who, in the year 1840, penetrated into the interior on the north beyond the 145th meridian and on the south beyond the 140th, says, “that the country preserved, as far as he was able to see from some hills, the same uniform appearance of an immense level plain. This extensive country resembles as little the plains of South America covered with abundant grass as the African Sahara with its moving sands; it seems to approach in character to the *steppes* which surround the lake of Aral, and extend to the Caspian Sea and Ural Mountains. These plains of Australia are, in many parts, extremely level; in others, they are slightly undulating; and here and there, but at great distances, sometimes more than a hundred miles, a sandy eminence arises, which scarcely deserves to be called a hill; the loftiest of these eminences are not above three hundred feet higher than the plain on which they stand.”

Again Capt. Sturt says, “My impression when traveling the country to the west and north-west of the marshes of the Mac-

quarrie river, was, that I was traversing a country of comparatively recent formation. The sandy nature of the soil, the great want of vegetable decay, the solsolaceous character of the plants, the appearance of the isolated hills and flooded tracts, and its trifling elevation above the sea, severally contributed to strengthen these impressions on my mind."

The conjecture of Capt. Sturt that Australia is of a more recent formation than the rest of the globe is by no means singular, but how far correct we cannot say.

RIVERS.

The rivers, at present discovered, when compared with the extent of the country, are small, and are subject to floods in winter and drouths in summer, many of them being in the latter season mere chains of ponds.

The principal navigable rivers are the Murray, which flows about 1300 miles, and forms the boundary between the provinces of New South Wales and Victoria, and empties itself into the sea, through the Lake Alexandrina, in South Australia; the Hunter, Brisbane, Albert and Adelaide, in New South Wales; the Prince Regent, Fitzroy, Glenelg and Swan, in Western Australia.

GEOLOGY.

The geological character of the soil of Australia has, as yet, been only imperfectly examined. Indeed, not one-fifth of its immense territory has been trod by the foot of civilized man, and it is impossible to foretell, particularly after the astounding developments of the past two years, what may be in store for the future geologist and mineralogist.

The mountain ranges on the east coast of New South Wales have an axis of granite, with large masses of greenstone basalt. They are flanked on both sides chiefly by beds of sandstone, containing limestone and coal. In Victoria there are also similar igneous rocks. In the north there is a great sandstone plateau, rising to 1800 feet above the sea, whilst on the immediate shore and round the Gulf of Carpentaria are beds supposed to belong

to the tertiary period. In Western Australia the Darling Mountains consist of granite below, covered by metamorphic rocks, and between them and the sea is a plain composed of tertiary beds.

MINERALOGY.

The mineral riches of Australia are vast. Gold has been discovered throughout the whole extent of the mountain range which runs in a line with the eastern coast, at an average distance of one hundred miles from the coast, commencing in the north at Bingaree, in Cooksland, New South Wales, and extending south to the Australian Alps and Pyrenees, in Victoria; but the basin of the Murray may be said to constitute the Australian gold field. Gold has also been found near the Onkaparinga river, in South Australia. The gold region, at present known, is computed to extend over sixty thousand square miles. There are numerous and valuable mines of copper in South Australia and New South Wales. Iron is found in large quantities in New South Wales, and lead in South Australia and New South Wales. Coal, of the best quality, has been dug from the mines near the city of Newcastle, about eighty miles north of Sydney, for nearly forty years. It is also found extensively at Gippsland, in Victoria, and other parts of the south. Limestone is abundant in various parts of the country. Marble, of beautiful quality, is found in Argyle county, and clay for pottery in Durham county, New South Wales.

THE SEASONS.

The seasons in Australia are the reverse of ours, July is midwinter, January, midsummer. The spring and autumn are brief, and the transition from one season to the other is so imperceptible, that it is difficult to say when the one begins or the other ends. Spring sets in early in September, when the atmosphere acquires a delightful warmth; as the season advances, the fall of rain decreases, the heat increases, and about the middle of November summer commences; autumn begins about the middle of March, and early in April genial showers

cover the earth with a bright verdure, and the atmosphere becomes cool and buoyant. Early in June winter commences, and by the middle of July torrents of rain have inundated the country and have rendered the water courses mighty streams. This cold rainy season generally terminates by the end of August. With the exception of about twenty-five hot days and sixty disagreeable or wet days, the weather is indescribably pleasant, the air is balmy and bright, scarcely a cloud is visible, and the sun looks down from the deep blue sky in unveiled splendor. Day and night are nearly of equal length throughout the year. The sun never remains above the horizon above fourteen hours and a half, nor less than ten hours and a half. The greater number of the nights are most enchanting. The southern constellations shine forth from the dark heavens in unrivalled brightness, and the haloed moon pours her chastened radiance on the plains and mountains with such refulgence that every thing for miles around is distinctly visible.

The thermometer in Sydney and Melbourne frequently reaches in summer 90 or 100 deg. Fahrenheit in the shade. In winter it rarely ranges below 46 deg. Hoar frosts sometimes occur; ice seldom or never. On the mountains snow lies in winter, but is rarely seen in the plains or valleys. There is but one instance on record of snow falling in Sydney, and that was on the 17th of June, 1836.

The wind which blows from the north is always extremely dry and often violent. In winter it is moderately warm, in summer it is intensely hot, and rushes on with the velocity of a hurricane. It seldom occurs more than four or five times every summer and lasts but a few days. It has been supposed that these winds derive their heat from passing over a great extent of arid and heated country, which deprives them of all moisture. Lieut. Breton, in his "Tour in New South Wales," says, "I rode fifty miles a day in the hot wind without feeling more inconvenience than in a hot day in England; and at night I have slept in the open air, my saddle for a pillow—the breeze balmy,

the firmament studded with innumerable bright stars shining sweetly through the deep blue of that cloudless sky, and never yet experienced any ill effects from it; indeed, in a climate like that of New South Wales, I question if any thing is to be feared from night exposure."

CLIMATE.

As respects the mortality of Australia, according to a report of several medical men, we find, "That the probability of life for any number of children born in these provinces is higher than for a similar number born in England; that people arriving in the hey-day of life are more likely to shorten their existence than lengthen it; that people who arrive in the decline of life are likely to add some fifteen or twenty years to their lives by locating in these provinces." Instances of longevity are numerous; the number of persons above one hundred years of age, as compared with the amount of population, is large.

All writers agree upon the salubrity of the climate, however much they may differ on the capabilities of the country.

"The healthiness of the climate," says a writer in the *Eclectic Review*, "has been tested for more than half a century; and from Wide Bay to Wilson's Promontory, and the breezy ridges of Geelong, all the stages of heat and moisture are found favorable to life and enjoyment. Are the fervors of the plain too great, then there is the bracing air of the mountains and table lands; are the chills of the heights too piercing, then there are sunny vales. No epidemic or endemic diseases are known. Dysentery and diarrhœa may be guarded against; the imported diseases die out, or are fended off by quarantine."

ANIMALS, ETC.

It is at least remarkable that nature has in several instances put on a different form in Australia from what is customary elsewhere. Among the animal tribes, the chief are of the pouched kind, and move forward by springing. The kangaroo is the principal animal of this description, and there are different kinds of them, some are from four to five feet while squatting

on their hind legs. They will leap twenty feet at a bound, by which movement they are able to outstrip a horse at full gallop. They are fast disappearing from the settled parts of the country. Opossums, kangaroo rats, bandicoots, and a sort of bear called a wombat, which is harmless, and its flesh has the flavor of a sucking pig, are numerous. There are also squirrels, moles and others, chiefly of a marsupial character. There is an animal half bird half beast, possessing the bill and feet of a duck and the body of a mole or rat, called the ornithorrhineus paradoxus. There are no wild savage animals, except the dingo or native dog.

Of birds, there are some curious varieties, both large and small. There are great varieties of parrots, parroquets and cockatoos, all with exceedingly beautiful plumage, green, red, purple and white. Doves, pigeons and birds of paradise are equally splendid in their feathery garments. There are also emus or Australian ostriches, herons, black swans, white crows, pelicans, quails, snipes, hawks and the jacuar or laughing jackass.

They are several kinds of native bees (without stings), which produce a great quantity of delicious honey. Of snakes, there are several varieties, some of them poisonous. Mosquitoes prevail in the uncleared districts, where there are marshes and trees to harbor them. In some places, fleas are described as being very troublesome.

The rivers abound with fish, some with cod of a large size, salmon trout, perch, mullet, eels, &c. Shrimps, mussels and oysters are plentiful and of fine quality. The seal and whale fisheries on the coasts offer boundless scope for profitable adventure to the initiated.

THE ABORIGINES.

The aborigines lead the usual life of savages, roaming throughout the interior in small tribes, each claiming as head quarters a respective territory. They are inconsiderable in numbers, of very black complexion, and in general tall and slim, with comparatively large heads, large lips, and wide mouths,

and are altogether the reverse of what we would call beautiful. They have been considered, although the opinion is not completely borne out by experience, as amongst the lowest in the scale of intellect. There is certainly less mechanical genius amongst them—fewer contrivances to improve the original condition of man—than can be found amongst savages on any part of the globe. Their only weapons are a rude spear, which they throw with great precision; and a short club, called by themselves a *waddie*. Their huts are of the poorest description, and their food consists of fish, grubs, worms, wild berries, &c. All attempts to civilize them has hitherto failed, and, with the exception of a few who wander about the cities and towns, who this contiguity has, in some degree, forced into a half-domesticated state—that is, imbued them with the vices of civilization—they still wander in the interior, perhaps not altogether undisputed “lords of the wilderness.” Since the gold mania, we have received the following from a flockmaster: “the natives were proving more useful than could be expected, my sheep at present are managed entirely by natives. They make first-rate shepherds, but they cannot shear. One poor fellow, whom I once shot at for sheep stealing, has had the entire charge of 1,600 ewes, and has reared 1,240 lambs from them, which is more than I could have looked for in the case of a white man.” Another says, “any person may command their services by the slightest efforts at kindness and conciliation.”

The Corobory, or native dance, consists of violent gestures, in which it is easy to perceive the agile and flexible movements that are acquired by a savage life. A low murmur, gradually increasing in loudness, until it grows into a wild and prolonged yell, constitutes the musical accompaniment. Spears jagged with glass, which they brandish fiercely, as if bidding defiance to some imaginary foe, renders the scene a little unpleasant to the beholders, who might fancy from their caperings, that the next act of the entertainment might be an onslaught upon the spectators. This violent exercise of the lungs and limbs gene-

rally lasts for about two hours, when weariness becomes apparent, and the wild excitement gradually subsides, and the performers sink on the grass into the deep slumber of physical exhaustion. These exhibitions always take place by moonlight.

It is interesting to see a native "Kangarooing." All his energies, instinct and cunning are brought into play. When he comes to a place likely to contain game, he becomes watchful, his eyes roll about, his body erect and motionless as a statue. After a while he moves, his step noiseless and cautious. When he sees a Kangaroo he becomes riveted to the spot, not a movement of either body or limb is observable. The uninitiated observer at a short distance looks in vain for the cause of this attitude; after straining his eyes for some time, he at length perceives the head of a kangaroo peeping over the long grass, in the direction of the native. The two animals watch each other for a variable period, until the kangaroo, (which has persuaded itself that the motionless object before it is lifeless,) has gone down again on all-fours, to dig a root or play with its young. The dark object then moves with measured pace towards his victim, which takes another peep to see if all is right. The native again assumes his fixed attitude. In this way he keeps advancing with extraordinary care and patience, sometimes for nearly an hour, until within reach of his game; then the fatal spear is placed in the throw-stick by a sort of magic, for no apparent motion accompanies the operation, the weapon is poised, and sent with unerring aim and effect. The natives now, with hideous yells, pursue the wounded animal, which of course does all in its power to escape, but is soon obliged, by pain or loss of blood to cease running; it then takes up a position with its back to a tree or rock, determined to defend itself or its progeny; but a few well directed spears from a short distance soon decide the contest. Poor kangaroo dies, is carried away in triumph, and is soon devoured.

TREES.

Of the Australian trees, the Blue Gum is the most abund-

dant. It often attains the height of eighty feet without any branches—the diameter being sometimes eight or nine feet. It is tough and heavy, and its timber is used for the manufacture of drays and wagons.

The White Gum affords the best flooring and weather boards.

The Mountain Eucalyptus, or Stringy Bark, every where abounds, along the summit and sides of the mountain ranges. Its timber is also valuable, and its bark, more than an inch in thickness, is capable of being stripped off in pieces eight or ten feet square, affording the materials of a cabin or hut, which, in summer, will amply shelter those to whom the elegance of their abode is but a secondary consideration. Many thousands of gold miners and others are sheltered by the stringy bark in the Australian diggings. Dr. Lang mentions a friend of his, a retired captain, as living in a house made of stringy bark.

The native Cedar is the material from which furniture is made. It very much resembles mahogany, and it is difficult for the casual observer to distinguish the difference. The doors of houses in the cities are generally constructed of it.

The River Oak is of small size, but with a hard grain, incapable of being split, and is used for making the felloes of wheels.

The Myall is a small but elegant tree, generally growing in belts around the margin of the open and grassy plains. Its silvery aspect and drooping branches contrast finely with the dark brows foliage of the Eucalyptus. Its grain is compact and hard, with alternate shades of yellow and brown, and emits a very pleasant smell. The natives make their boomerangs, waddies, spears, &c., of its timbers.

The Pine, which is found in the northern settlement of Cooksland and Moreton Bay, is a very valuable tree, and is a great article of export to Sydney and the southern settlements.

The Tea Tree is a shrub rather than a tree, generally forming a thick underwood along the streams. A decoction of its leaves is used for the same purpose as we use China tea.

The Tulip Wood and Sassafras are very abundant, but like the banksias, the aborescent fern, and the cabbage palm, are ornamental rather than useful. Of the leaves of the last mentioned plant are made the hats that are worn by shepherds and squatters.

FARMS AND FARMERS.

The farm houses are rough, but generally substantial and commodious; they are built of various materials, according to circumstances; if good stone or slate is handy, it is used, if not, and suitable clay is in the vicinity, bricks are resorted to, and when these materials are not to be had, the dwelling is built of wood, and usually have no ceiling nor upper floor, when you look up you see the roof; the walls are generally bare, some may just get lime-washed. The windows are sometimes canvass, sometimes glass. For flooring some have only earth, some are paved with stone or slate, or bricks, and some few have wood floors. The water is procured by sinking wells. Near the farm house is the strongly-bailt stock yard, barn, stable, and other outbuildings. The farms are enclosed with rude wood fences. The farmers furnish their dwellings with few articles of domestic convenience, and most of them manufacture their own furniture. They all live on plain and substantial food; some of the more wealthy keep a stock of European wines and British bottled ale and porter. The farmers and all who reside away from the cities or villages, dress in coarse apparel. The usual male attire is a pair of common slop trowsers, a blue guernsey, with a leather belt to keep up the trowsers and the guernsey down, a flaunting red handkerchief for a neck-tie, a broad-brimmed cabbage-tree hat, and a pair of boots. The farmers' wives and daughters generally dress in cottons; their attire, although coarse, is neat, chaste, and tidy; they wear high dresses and cotton sun-bonnets; they, nevertheless, have their jewelry, silks, &c., which they wear on festive occasions. They are usually well educated, devoid of affectation, thrifty and industrious. "Indeed," says a recent

traveller, "I was struck, in my travels through the country, with the beauty, the accomplished graces, the glowing health, the vivacity, and the open-heartedness of the fair sex in the rural districts, and I should be wanting in gratitude did I not record their disinterested kindness, attention, and general liberality to the wandering stranger." Most of the farmers and others in the rural districts, though parsimonious to a fault, are straightforward and honorable in their business transactions, kind and considerate to their neighbors, and generous and hospitable to strangers.

THE SQUATTER.

Squatter is the colonial phrase for the great flock-masters who reside beyond the boundaries of the counties, and within what are called the Commissioners' districts. Many of them hold from 20 to 60 square miles for their sheep and cattle runs; they pay a license to government of £10 per year; also $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per head for sheep; 1d. for cattle, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. for horses. They seldom account for near the quantity of stock they have on their runs. Some of them have as many as 40,000 sheep, and 5,000 head of cattle and a great many horses. Many of the owners are wealthy men, who reside in the cities, but generally the squatter is a man who emigrated with a moderate capital, and became attracted by the climate, free life, and profits of sheep and cattle grazing. It is not unusual to find among squatters men who have graduated in the Colleges of Oxford or Cambridge, and even broken down *scions* of the British aristocracy. The bush farmers, though living in slight wooden houses, and at great distances from each other, hold their hunting parties—their chief amusement consisting in chasing the kangaroo, the emu, or the diago. In these recreations they find an imperfect substitute for the "hunts" of the old country. To settle with their agents in the cities, it is necessary to go up to "town" once in every year, and it is an easy thing to recognise in the streets of Sydney or Melbourne the bush farmer, by his healthy, robust look, and independent bearing. It

requires all his tact to cope with the sharp-witted commission merchants with whom he comes in contact. During his short stay in the cities, the bush farmer generally resumes the manners and habiliments of a gentleman; lives in the best hotels, treats himself and friends, and enters into dissipation and gaiety with a relish made keen by long abstinence. In a few days he becomes satiated with his debauch, and dispatching his carters with his drays, he mounts his horse, almost an Arab in vigor and spirit, and once more seeks his "station"—often 500 or 600 miles away in the interior.

THE SHEPHERD OR HERDSMAN.

The life of the shepherd in the Australian wilds is any thing but agreeable to a man who has been used to the amenities of civilized life. Confined to one district all the year round, and during that time seeing scarcely any other individual but his companion the hut keeper. Leading the same dull life day after day, and living on nothing but damper—flour and water baked on wood embers—mutton, tea, and tobacco smoke; sleeping at night in a bed alive with fleas, and his hut neither wind nor water tight. To the needy, however, it affords ready employment, plenty of food, and a rough home. Many of the now wealthy settlers commenced their career as shepherds, and by perseverance and thrift elevated themselves in society.

SPORTING.

There are no game laws in Australia—the wild animals are considered common property, and every hunter and settler hunts and shoots them whenever he pleases. The animals hunted are the dingo or native dog, kangaroo and the emu. The native dogs are very numerous and troublesome. They prowl about in the night time, and when pressed by hunger will come almost to the door of the shepherd's huts, and leap among a flock of sheep on one side of the fold, while the watchman is in his box on the other side. They frequently visit the farm yards, where they feast on all that comes in their way, from the poultry to the calves, or even the foals. The destroying the

dingo is alike amusing and profitable to the farmers and the squatters, who hunt them with kangaroo dogs, a breed between a greyhound and a mastiff. At every homestead and station you will find some of these dogs, and settlers spend much time with them in search of the dingo, which, when discovered, is too cunning to be easily taken. If three or four are together, on making the alarm, they will all probably fly off in opposite directions; whenever possible, they hide themselves in inaccessible mountain ravines, or holes in the banks of rivers. Their scent, however, is so strong, that the dogs are rarely at fault. When hunting the dingo, as soon as the dogs are fully on the scent, the settlers give rein to their horses, and bound away over hill and dale, clearing every obstruction in a style that would astonish the most adventurous British steeple chaser. Immediately the dog catch the prey, they tear him to pieces.

The kangaroo is sometimes hunted for food, as his flesh is eatable, especially the tail, which makes a rich soup. The kangaroo, when hard pressed, will turn about, place his back to a tree, and vigorously fight for his life; he will seize and tightly grasp a dog in his fore paws, and with the hard long nail of his powerful hind foot, rip the animal to death. They have been known to drown dogs, and, when hard pressed, after a long chase, to attack man. "I know a person," says Lancelot, "who accidentally came upon a kangaroo, to which he gave chase; after a long run, the creature turned and fought desperately, killing one dog and disabling another. Finding his dogs overmatched, the bushman inconsiderately dismounted from his horse, when the kangaroo flew at him, severely wounded him with its powerful claws, then took him up, carried him to a pond hard by, and endeavored to drown him. When rescued by some brother hunters, who happened to be near, he was insensible; he was confined to his bed for six weeks afterwards."

The Emu, or Australian Ostrich, is also hunted by dogs. A valuable medicinal oil is extracted from its carcase,

AGRICULTURE, ETC.

Owing to the great pastoral resources of Australia and the easy method of raising a fortune by sheep and cattle farming, agriculture has been comparatively neglected, sufficient corn and grain having only been raised to supply the wants of its own population. In some seasons even it has not raised that, and its deficiencies have been supplied from the neighboring islands of Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand. Of late years, however, South Australia has grown considerably more wheat than served the colonists, and great quantities have been exported to the Cape of Good Hope, the Mauritius, and even to England, where it was ranked as an article of first-rate quality. When, however, the colonies shall have recovered from the shock occasioned by the gold panic, no doubt, agriculture will meet with due attention, as a great supply of produce, which must fetch highly remunerative prices, will be necessary for the very rapidly increasing population.

Most of the cereal and vegetable productions and fruits of Europe and America grow vigorously in Australia. Wheat, Indian corn, barley, oats, millet, potatoes, &c., thrive abundantly. Vines flourish on the rich alluvion on the banks of the Hawkesbury, Nepean, Hunter and more northern rivers, and in that "loviest spot in nature," the beautiful valley of Ilawarra, in New South Wales; on the volcanic soil of Barrabool hills, in Victoria; on the banks of the Murray and Torrens in South Australia; and on the Swan and Canning rivers in West Australia, and numerous other localities. Considerable quantities of wine and brandy are manufactured by the settlers from the Rhenish provinces of Germany. Near Sydney the orangeries are extensive and give large yearly returns, the fruit finding purchasers in the Sydney market at twenty-five cents per dozen. Peaches thrive well all over the provinces, and in some localities are given to swine as the most profitable way of getting rid of them. Lemons, pomegranates, apricots, nectarines, bananas and many other rare fruits, luxuriate in the open air. Tobacco

grows plentifully in Durham county and the settlements north, and the cotton plant flourishes perennially in Cooksland and around Moreton Bay.

The great resource of Australia (previous to the gold discoveries) consisted, says Dr. Lang, "in an illimitable extent of pasture land, which it presents in every direction to the sheep farmer or proprietor of cattle." No country on the face of the earth appears so admirably adapted for the raising of sheep and the production of wool of the finest quality. Australian wool takes the lead in the markets of Europe, and so readily and profitably is it disposed of, that the cost of transport of sixteen thousand miles goes almost for nothing in the grower's calculation of profits. In proof of this, the exports of wool from the various provinces and islands of Australia to Great Britain, in the year 1851, amounted to no less than forty-four millions of pounds. In 1812, the quantity exported amounted to only 840 pounds weight.

So rapid is the increase of stock, that notwithstanding the immense amount of pasturage, the squatters and farmers were obliged, in consequence thereof, some eight or ten years ago, to commence a system of "boiling down" their flocks and herds, for the sake of their tallow, hides and horns. Martin says, "the average weight of tallow obtained from a sheep is about 26 lbs. The expense of converting sheep into tallow, sorting and packing the skin, wool, &c.," is about one shilling sterling per sheep, which may be covered by converting the pelt, horns, hoofs, sinews and entrails into glue; each sheep would yield about 4 lbs. of glue. The intrinsic value of an ordinary four-year old beast, consists of 80 lbs. of tallow at 32s. per cwt.; hide, horns, glue, bones, refuse and meat, 14s. 6d., making £2 sterling."

The great accession to the population within the past few months, will, we may suppose, give the squatters and farmers a chance of selling the carcasses of their animals.

The following table shows, at one view, the provinces and

islands, the year when settled, their territorial extent, the white population and stock in each (in round numbers), computed to the close of the year 1852.

Provinces and Islands.	When Settled.	Square Miles.	Population.	Sheep.	Horned Cattle.	Horses.	Hogs.
New South Wales, ..	1788	1,600,000	360,000	16,000,000	2,200,000	250,000	100,000
Victoria,	1836	100,000	220,000	8,500,000	800,000	40,000	16,000
South Australia,	1836	300,000	100,000	3,000,000	200,000	7,000	10,000
West Australia,	1829	1,000,000	14,000	500,000	50,000	8,000	5,000
Van Diemen's Land, .	1802	27,000	100,000	5,500,000	600,000	40,000	20,000
New Zealand,	1840	122,000	*190,000	1,500,000	300,000	10,000	100,000
Total,	3,149,000	984,000	35,000,000	4,100,000	355,000	251,000

* Includes the Maori or native population.

PROVINCE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENT.

The province of New South Wales contains all that portion of Australia lying eastward of the 129th degree of E. Longitude of Greenwich, excepting those portions occupied by South Australia and Victoria. Its extreme length, north and south, is 1,750 miles. Its extreme breadth, east and west, is 1,500 miles. The territorial area is computed at one million six hundred thousand square miles, or rather more than one half of all continental Australia. But the occupied portion of the province does not exceed 900 miles by the coast line, from Wide Bay on the north to Cape Howe on the south, on the boundary line of Victoria; and 500 miles from the east coast to the river Darling in the west—the superficial contents being about 330,000 square miles. It is at present divided into forty-six counties, which occupy the whole coast and extend not more than from 100 to 200 miles in the interior—the residue of the country west to the Darling being occupied by Commissioners' districts.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.

The general appearance of the coast, with few exceptions, is dreary and uninviting, presenting a continuous front of steep cliffs and walled precipices, unbroken for many miles together; behind these, again, and running along the whole eastern coast, generally parallel with them, at a distance of fifty to sixty miles from the sea, is the "mountain belt" of Australia—the Blue Mountains—a chain of rocky, precipitous and almost impassible mountains, rising to a height of 3,000 to 4,000 feet. This lofty ridge separates the waters that flow towards the sea from those that have an inland course. The maritime boundary is generally bold and deeply indented. For

a few miles inland, the country is barren and rocky, presenting little signs of vegetation except stunted shrubs and dwarf under-wood. Beyond this, the soil improves, and begins to be encumbered with tall and stately trees, which soon thicken into a magnificent forest, indicating a more luxuriant soil than that just passed. Advancing six or nine miles further into the interior, and you have cleared the forest, the country improving with every mile as you advance—now presenting a succession of hill and dale—covered with luxuriant vegetation; now extensive plains like gentlemen's parks in England; covered with bleating flocks and lowing herds, diversified by villages, farms, and cottages, and intersected by broad and excellent turn-pike roads. We quote Martin, "If we view New South Wales as a region ten times the size of England, with a climate unsurpassed for salubrity, and peculiarly adapted for the Anglo-Saxon race, with a table land of nearly half a million of square miles, supported for a thousand miles by gigantic mountain buttresses of four to six thousand feet high, this table land everywhere, and for the whole year round, covered with a most nutritious herbage, admirably adapted for the feed of sheep and cattle, and intersected by a net-work of streams; the mountains clothed with useful timber, the valleys, where cultivated, yielding fifty to a hundred fold of grain, the coast line indented by secure havens, and the ocean, the lakes, and the rivers teeming with fish—some idea may be formed of the importance of this valuable section of the British empire."

THE GOLD REGION.

For the following statement of the present state of the Gold Region of the province of New South Wales, with the different localities and their capabilities, and the number of workers in the diggings, &c., we are indebted to the Editor of the *Sydney Empire* :—

There is a vast field for mining enterprize at the Turon, both on the river itself, and on the table land in the vicinity, whence its tributaries take their rise. Many of these tributaries, Big

Oakey and Little Oakey Creek especially, have yielded a large amount of gold. On the table land, where their source is, parties have been at work for months, making large earnings, and more extensive research would, undoubtedly, develop many rich deposits at this place. Along the Bathurst road gold has been found, and at Wyagden hill, midway between that town and the Turon, operations on a large scale, which promise to be successful have been begun. There are miles in extent of this river in which, although there is every likelihood that deposits of the precious metal will be found, no attempt has as yet been made to develop the probable riches. The bed of the river alone, auriferous as it is throughout, not to speak of the hills or the creeks in the vicinity, will afford an almost inexhaustible digging ground.

The Braidwood diggings next claim attention. They are confined chiefly to Major's and Bell's Creeks, which flow over the table land, above the valley of Araluen. They are not more than ten or twelve miles distant from the town of Braidwood. At one time there must have been nearly 2,000 persons on Major's and Bell's Creeks, and at Araluen, but at present there is not, at most, more than 500. The average earnings at these diggings approximate to those at the Turon, as at the latter place many instances of surprising good fortune have occurred. At Mungarlow, some fifteen or twenty miles from Major's Creek, remunerative diggings have been opened, and several nuggets have been found weighing up to 8 or 10 ounces. At the Braidwood diggings the gold is generally fine, and is reckoned to be very pure.

About thirty miles north of the Turon are the Meroo diggings. The Meroo is a river somewhat resembling the Turon in its general features, and in its banks large deposits of gold have been found. The geological character of the country is somewhat similar to that of the Turon. The diggings extend several miles along the river. The yield of gold is generally large, and the gold itself coarse with occasional large nuggets.

At the Louisa river beautiful specimens of gold in the matrix are constantly procured, and nearly all the gold obtained here is coarse and not waterworn. Nuggets of large size have been discovered. The hundred weight every one is familiar with. Brennan's 27lb. lump was found at the Louisa, as was also the largest water-worn nugget yet obtained, weighing 157 ounces, besides numerous other nuggets of less size, which it would be tedious to enumerate. The heavy rains have greatly interfered with all the diggings. Generally speaking a man may earn 20s. sterling per day, if the weather is favorable and he sticks to his work. The number of diggers on the Meroo, the Louisa, and other places in the neighborhood, may be put down at 1,500.

At Golden Gully, and the Bald Hill also, the diggings are very prolific, and to all appearances an extensive region teeming with golden wealth lies around.

The Hanging Rock may be regarded as among the number of those gold fields whose richness has been established. It is situated at River Peel in New England. The Oakenville, Hurdle, and Oakey Creeks, flowing into the Peel, have been found to be rich in auriferous deposits, and a large tract of country in the vicinity presents the same indications. The number of diggers at the Hanging Rock is about 200, who are now doing exceedingly well. As much as 20 ounces per diem have been obtained here, and dry diggings have been discovered which promise to be exceedingly rich.

Of the remaining gold fields, which are so only by anticipation, their riches not having been developed, and but little being known of their extent, the Abercrombie is one of the longest known, and probably one of the most important.

An extensive gold field has been discovered at the Ballabeng Range, which lies nearly a hundred miles to the west of Bathurst, between the waters of the Lachlan and Bogan. Schist and quartz are the constituent rocks, and specimens of gold in the matrix have been found.

The last discovered diggings in this province, which have excited the most sanguine expectations of their future productiveness, are Bingara, situated on the Conraugoura Creek, which joins the Gwydir, seventy miles to the north-west of Tamworth. The diggers who first discovered the treasures of this locality made extraordinary gains in a short time, and the gold appeared to lie in such abundance on all sides as to be inexhaustible. The gold obtained has consisted chiefly of nuggets and coarse grain very little worn. Nuggets weighing fourteen and sixteen ounces have been obtained. Upon the intelligence of the success of these diggings, a large number of persons set out for them, and at present we dare say there are 300 on the ground.

The total number of diggers engaged in the various localities referred to is about 6,000, and looking at the extent of the auriferous country it is no exaggeration to state that there is probable employment for 200,000 persons, or double the population at present at the Victoria diggings.

Companies have been lately formed in the colony for the more effectual development of the wealth of the gold fields by operations conducted on an extensive scale, directed by scientific skill, and aided by all the available mechanical appliances of modern art and industry. About half a dozen of these companies have already not only been formed, but have actually commenced operations.

Gold has been found throughout more than eight degrees of latitude, from Bingara at the north, to the ranges, near Cape Otway, in Victoria. There is good reason for believing that it exists throughout twelve degrees, as samples of the precious metal were found by the late Mr. Roderick Mitchell, son of the Surveyor-General, as far North as Mount Abundance at the Fitz Roy Downs. The eastern-most diggings in Australia yet discovered are those at the Hanging Rock, about the 151st degree of E. longitude.

CITIES AND PRINCIPAL SETTLEMENTS.

Sydney, the present metropolis of Australia and principal city of New South Wales, is situated on a promontory on the south shore of Port Jackson, seven miles west of the heads at the entrance of the port. Sixty-five years ago the place was a wilderness, inhabited by a few miserable savages. In the year 1800, the population of Sydney, consisting of free settlers and convicts, amounted to about 3,000, and at the present time it is estimated to be from 70,000 to 80,000. It is a handsome built city, the streets are broad and spacious, and generally laid out at right angles, and many from one to three miles in length. They are paved, or macadamized, regularly cleaned, watered, and lit with gas. The buildings, both public and private, may vie with the cities of older countries—the modern structures especially so. The churches are large and many of them fine structures, particularly the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Cathedrals. There are 6 Episcopal churches, 6 Methodist, 4 Presbyterian, 3 Catholic, 1 Congregational, 1 Baptist, 1 Unitarian, and a Friends' Meeting-house and a Jews' Synagogue. There are two Colleges, the Australian College and Sydney College, well endowed. The Government House is a large handsome structure, of the Tudor style of architecture; it stands on the shore of Port Jackson, just out of the city. There are numerous literary and scientific institutions, commercial reading rooms and libraries, numerous daily, tri weekly, semi-weekly and weekly newspapers, mechanics' institute, Bible, tract and missionary societies, a museum of natural history, temperance, free masons, and odd fellows lodges, and a splendid park and botanic garden. Along the water side there are numerous wharves, stores, ship yards, mills, manufactories, distilleries, breweries, steam engines, &c. Sydney has grown to be a city of great commercial importance. We learn from the *Sydney Shipping Gazette*, that, on the 14th of August last, there were over eighty vessels lying in port, some seventy expected within a few days, thirteen whaleships therefrom at sea—and there had been twelve arrivals

within six days, and a very large number of departures. An American gentleman thus writes: "Sydney is three times as large as I expected to find it. Not a single frame house is to be found in the place—all are of brick or sandstone. Many of the buildings surpass any that I have seen in Cincinnati; and some are of the most splendid description. The climate is delightful; and I am very much pleased with the better class of the inhabitants. Among them there is no prejudice against the Americans." The views from the higher parts of the city are bold and picturesque; the magnificent harbor of Port Jackson, studded with islets, indented with coves of singular beauty, affords a secure harbor to hundreds of vessels. The shores of the port and the surrounding country are interspersed with fine mansions and cottages, and substantial homesteads. Sydney is the see of a Catholic Archbishop and of the Episcopal (metropolitan) Bishop.

Paramatta, 16 miles west of Sydney, is situate at the head of the narrow inlet of the sea in which Port Jackson terminates above Sydney. The village is much visited by parties of pleasure from Sydney. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the scenery which presents itself on all sides as you proceed to Paramatta by water; innumerable little promontories covered with wood to the water's edge, stretch into the sea, and forming a corresponding number of little bays and inlets. Around the dwelling houses are vineyards, orange groves, orchards and lawns. Paramatta has a population of 6,000. The greater part of the houses are built of brick or white freestone, and being for the most part unconnected with each other, cover a great extent of ground. The situation of the village is delightful: in a spacious hollow, covered with the richest verdure, and surrounded by hills of moderate height. Here, too, are numerous churches, hotels, and all other appendages of a considerable town. A cloth factory, where female convicts are employed, exists here.

Windsor, a village 37 miles N. W. of Sydney, in the des-

cription of its buildings much resembles Paramatta, is built upon a hill close by the river Hawkesbury, which, after a circuitous route of about 140 miles, discharges itself into Broken Bay. Windsor contains a handsome government house, several churches, a court house, a jail, taverns, inns, stores, &c. Its population is about 3,000. The lands in the neighborhood are exceedingly fertile, but are extremely liable to inundation from the Hawkesbury, (in consequence of the vicinity of the Blue Mountains,) which has been known to rise to the incredible height of 93 feet above its ordinary level. Inundations of 70 or 80 feet are of frequent occurrence, and the consequences to settlers within its reach are often fatal, and ruinous to their establishments. The village itself, which is built on an elevation of 100 feet above the level of the river, has hitherto escaped these dreadful visitations.

Liverpool, 18 miles S. W. of Sydney, is situate on the George river, which discharges its waters into the celebrated Botany Bay. It has the usual buildings of country villages. The soil around is of very indifferent quality, but as the village is on the high road to the south and south-western settlements, it is a place of considerable bustle and importance. Population 2,000.

Maitland, 108 miles N. of Sydney, on the Hunter river, is a flourishing place, carrying on considerable business between Sydney and the interior. The counties bordering on the Hunter form one of the principal agricultural districts of New South Wales, and contain a considerable population. In Maitland are numerous churches, a court house, inns, stores, &c. Its population exceeds 6,000.

Newcastle, so called from the coal mines in its vicinity, is the see of an Episcopal Bishop. The coal deposits, of which it is the principal seat, are situate in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, through which run the river Hunter, terminating at the port of Newcastle. The mines have the advantage of being worked upon the level, the coal actually

cropping out on the surface, which ensures its freedom from water, one of the most troublesome visitors and most serious sources of expense in a coal mine. Newcastle is 80 miles N. of Sydney and 28 from Maitland.

At *Port Stephens* the Australian Agricultural Company has an establishment, which is a lucrative concern just now, as considerable gold quartz has been found within their territory, which comprises 500,000 acres. As in the case of most colonial land companies, its prosperity has not been productive of much good to community. The principal coal mines of the province belong to this company, and they have not failed to improve their monopoly. Twenty miles N. E. of Newcastle.

Bathurst is 120 miles west of Sydney, and contains 5,000 inhabitants. It has several churches, a court house and jail, and the Circuit Court for the western country is holden here. It contains also an academy, literary societies and public libraries. From this place to Sydney a road has been carried over the Blue Mountains, by the skill of Sir Thomas Mitchell and the labor of chained gangs of convicts, by which difficulties of no ordinary magnitude have been surmounted, and the pass of Mount Victoria, by which a formidable chasm has been filled up by an enormous mass of masonry, may rival the best feats of Swiss engineering. The gold diggings at Ophir, the first discovered in Australia, are about 40 miles from Bathurst. The extensive plains of Bathurst county are now covered with flocks and herds of the settlers, and farm houses are scattered all over them. From its great height above the sea, the air of Bathurst county is peculiarly bright and salubrious, and the summer possesses all the brightness without the sultriness of the eastern valleys. The best cheese is manufactured here.

Sofala, at the diggings, on the Turon river, is just now beginning to assume the appearance of a real town. There are (or rather there were on the 25th November,) two main streets, with many slabbed buildings of respectable appearance, and every day new structures may be seen raising their heads. The

Episcopalian Church is progressing fast. It is a simple structure composed of split stuff and canvass. It is erected on a piece of rising ground just beyond the Post-office. The latter is a miserable slabbed building, inconvenient, insecure, and reminding one of a cowshed or a fourth-class stable. Sofala is 30 miles from Bathurst, and 18 through the bush from Ophir.

Goulburn and *Yass* are thriving villages, on the great road to Melbourne—the former 150 and the latter 200 miles from Sydney. These villages are situate in one of the finest agricultural districts in the country, producing wheat, &c., of the finest quality, and in the greatest abundance. Large tracts of pasture land are every where to be met with, and from the geographical position, the climate is of the most delightful kind, highly favorable to the raising of cattle, and rendering it capable of producing, in great perfection, all the fruits and vegetables of Europe.

Brisbane, the principal place in Cooksland, has a population of 3,000, and is increasing rapidly. It is 500 miles north of Sydney. Cooksland comprises that portion of the province lying north of the 30th degree of S. latitude. Dr. Lang says: "The cotton plant had been found to be perennial in the colony. Cotton had been grown and sent to England, which the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce had pronounced to be worth 1s. 6d sterling per lb., and if European labor could be applied to its cultivation, the supply might be made almost inexhaustible. The climate was so healthy and so well adapted to the European constitution, that there was no difficulty on that ground, while as regarded the labor it was so easy that it might be performed by children. There were between Sydney and West Bay, our most northerly settlement, ten rivers navigable by steam boats, and on the banks of every one of these rivers there were many millions of acres of untimbered land that could be devoted to cotton growing." A meeting was lately held at Brisbane to petition the British government to form Cooksland into a province separate from New

South Wales, and, on account of the scarcity of laborers there, to renew the system of convict transportation! The vegetation of Cooksland assumes a grandeur and magnificence almost of a tropical character.

RELIGION, EDUCATION, &c.

The religious societies are much the same as in Great Britain. There is no lack of churches and chapels where they are required. On this subject, Dr. Lang remarks, "The colonial churches are the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic. Besides these establishments there are other dissenting congregations. By Sir R. Bourke's act, passed in 1836, whenever a hundred adults shall attach themselves to the ministration of any pastor, duly recognized and set forth by one or other of the colonial churches, and shall contribute a small amount for the erection of a church and parsonage, the government guarantee a salary of £100 per annum, and advance at least £300 from the public treasury to assist in erecting his church and parsonage; and with a view to stimulate the exertion of the pastor, his government salary is to be augmented to £150 or even £200 per annum as soon as he rallies around him a congregation of 200 to 500 adults. The practical operation of the new system, I am happy to state, has been attended with the happiest results. It has infused life and vigor into the shrivelled arm of Episcopacy; it has proved as life from the dead to the Presbyterian community. By the Episcopalian laity of all classes, it has not only been acquiesced in as a measure of urgent necessity, on the score of justice to others, but received as a real measure of benefit to themselves." In parts of the province settled by Scotch highlanders, there are preachers who use the Gaelic tongue. The Episcopal Church of New South Wales is superintended by the Metropolitan Bishop of Sydney and the Bishop of Newcastle, and the Roman Catholic Church by the Archbishop of Sydney.

We find from the official report on education and crime, that the number of schools had increased from 167 with 9,040

scholars in 1840, to 558 with 25,682 scholars in 1849. With respect to crime, though the population had nearly doubled between 1840 and 1849, the convictions have decreased from 662 in 1840, to 543 in 1849, and those for misdemeanor from 170 to 125. There were 8 executions in the former year, and only 4 in the latter.

CONVICTS.

The number of convicts transported to New South Wales up to 1836, a period of forty-eight years, was, males, 43,506; females, 6,791; total, 50,297. In 1836 the number in the province amounted to 27,831. in 1850 the number had decreased to 3,954.

POPULATION.

The population on the foundation of the colony in 1788, consisted of 608 male and 250 female convicts, and a guard of marines, with their wives and children, numbering 202—total, 1,070. In 1810, the census gave 10,452. In 1821, 29,783; in 1836, 130,856; in 1846, 196,704; in 1849, 246,299; and close of 1852, 360,000.

TRADE, REVENUE, ETC.

The trade of New South Wales is rapidly growing in importance. The leading export articles are gold, wool, copper, iron, coal, tallow, treenails, and seal and whale oils. A great part of the latter is produced by a description of whale called the sperm whale, and is found in the South Seas only. A large and profitable trade in wine and brandy cannot fail to spring up in the province. Some vines of fine quality, from the fruit of which the French manufactured claret, were presented by the late king of the French, Louis Philippe, to the late king of England, William IV., who had them transmitted to New South Wales, where they have been planted, and have thriven as vigorously as they would in the south of "sunny France." From the peaches of the province, brandy of a quality equal if not superior to that of France, is distilled. Silk (from the abundance of the mulberry), dried fruits, indigo, &c., for the

growth of which the province is favorable, will, doubtless, in time, be produced.

The imports in 1826, amounted to £260,000 ; in 1844, £916,000 ; and in 1851 to £2,563,931. The exports in 1826 were £106,600 ; in 1844, £1,128,100 ; in 1850, £2,399,600. The revenue in 1847 was £325,940 ; in 1849, £575,692 ; the expenditure £516,533. The land under cultivation in 1848 was 133,369 acres ; in 1849 it amounted to (exclusive of gardens and orchards,) 181,612 acres, of which 132,000 were in bread stuffs. The quantity of wool exported in 1849 was 27,960,530 lbs., and of tallow 150,183 cwt. There were in 1849, 1,127 acres of vineyard, yielding 101,063 gallons of wine, and 1,781 gallons of brandy. The first vine was planted at Camden. Coin in circulation in 1840, £397,580 ; in June, 1850, £690,582, and paper currency, £296,002. There were being worked in 1852, 10 coal, 8 copper, and 2 iron mines. The number of mills for grain was rapidly increasing.

There are various sources of wealth awaiting investments. A railroad from Sydney to Melbourne was being commenced. The arrival of Mr. Wallace, the talented engineer, had been hailed as an event. In aid of the undertaking, the provincial government has undertaken to convey from England 500 railroad laborers at the expense of the emigration fund. From the Bathurst Copper Company and the Southern Copper Company's Mines the ore has been transmitted to England for smelting, and pronounced equal to the Burra Burra of South Australia. The Fitzroy Iron Company's Mine is at Mittagong, seventy miles south of Sydney, and extends over 12 acres. It is doubtless of volcanic formation, as three distinct mounds, or craters, appear, and the lava (iron ore) instead of the general pumice stone, flows from each mound a depth of six to ten feet. The yield of this mine is remarkable. When smelted, the ore produces steel of a superior character.

SOCIETY.

The state of society in New South Wales has been affected

to a considerable extent by the transportation thither of convicts. The emancipated convicts, and their descendants, however well behaved, are held as a degraded or inferior class by the free settlers, and consequently two factions have sprung up in the province, and caused much disquiet in the country. But whatever may have been the state of society, and the differences between the free settlers and the emancipists, from the great emigration of free settlers now pouring in, the emancipists will form but a very small portion of the community, and it is to be hoped that the line of distinction between the two parties will shortly disappear. There are many hundreds of families in Sydney and the neighborhood, enjoying all the elegancies of refined life, exchanging its courtesies, and cultivating its amusements and pleasures; splendid equipages are seen rolling through its spacious streets; its public assembly rooms blazing with lights, and filled with "beauty and fashion;" music parties and theatricals filling up the round of Sydney life. Next to Sydney, Bathurst has the highest pretensions to a general superiority in the character of its society. Besides its literary institutions, it boasts of an association called the "Bathurst Hunt," composed of the sporting gentlemen who reside in the district.

We extract the following from a speech of Capt. Hoseason, of the British war steamer *Inflexible*, to show the improved moral condition of the people:—"As an evidence of the effect produced by the abundance of food on the morality of a people, he stated that when at Sydney, in 1835, he permitted the people of that city to visit his ship, and one Sunday 5,000 people came on board, a large number of whom had the curiosity, being of the fair sex, to inspect even his private cabins. But although his very drawers were left unlocked, and the plate belonging to the vessel was accessible, nothing was stolen. And how was this? Why where beef was 1¼d. per lb., and a laborer's wages were 4s. 6d. a day, people could not afford to be dishonest. In London, of course, he would not have left

his state cabins unlocked." In fact, it is presumed, that there is less immorality and crime within the province of New South Wales, at the present time, than the other provinces, especially Victoria, where the amount of "riches leading to poverty and treasures sure to cause wide-spread ruin," have drawn within her precincts all the worst characters of these colonies.

GOVERNMENT, HISTORY, &C.

The government of New South Wales is conducted by a Governor, and Executive and Legislative Councils. They were formerly all appointed by the ministry at home. But in 1842 the legislative council was made elective for a term of four years, and the cities and counties elected councils for the internal management of their affairs. In 1850 a new constitution was granted, which gave the power of forming a federal union of the provinces and islands.

The history of the province is confined within very narrow limits. There are but few incidents to record save those we noticed in our *Cursory View*. The removal of the settlement from Botany Bay, which was found ineligible, to the extensive harbor of Port Jackson, forms the first most prominent incident. The loss of some cattle shortly afterwards from the settlement, and their previous discovery on the "Cow Pasture plains," where they had increased considerably in numbers; some disputes with the natives; a little bushranging; the establishment of a newspaper, in 1803, at Sydney, and the deposition and deportation to England of Governor Bligh, the little Nero of the colony, form the principal items worthy of notice. Governor Macquarrie, the successor of Bligh, amused himself with raising up splendid buildings at the public expense, and it was during his reign the passage of the Blue Mountains was discovered. The abolition of the "assignment system," in 1838, by depriving the settlers of their supply of convict labor, produced very disastrous effects upon the agricultural interests. So great was the panic that sheep valued at \$5 were offered for 50 cents! The depreciation of all other property was in the

same proportion: so intimately connected is the value of property with the supply of labor. The increase of free immigrants, however, gradually filled up the vacuum in the labor market. In 1844, the school question—that mighty stumbling-block to those individuals whose enslaved souls, “cribbed, cabined, and confined,” have no faith in the power and immortality of truth, and whose circumscribed vision will not permit them to see beyond the narrow limits of their own sect—was discussed in the new Legislature, and the old sectarian schools abolished, and a free school system, similar to our State schools, ordered to be established; but the execution of this national and truly Christian scheme, was deferred for some time, on account of the opposition that was offered it by bigots of all creeds. The year 1845 the minds of the colonists were occupied with a parliamentary struggle of as much importance to the new-born liberties of New South Wales as the great contest in England with Charles I., on the subject of ship money. Gov. Gipps claimed, by virtue of Royal prerogative, to levy what rents and fines he pleased for the occupation of the Crown Lands. This was successfully resisted by the Legislature, and Gov. Gipps was recalled, and Sir Charles Fitzroy, the present Governor-General, appointed, when the attempt to deprive the colonists of their newly-fledged liberties was prudently abandoned. In the year 1849, a futile attempt of the Home Government to renew transportation by sending to Sydney the ship *Hashemey*, with convicts, was a source of great annoyance to the colonists. Despatches have recently been sent by the British government (the Aberdeen administration) to the Governors of New South Wales and Victoria authorizing the Legislative councils in both colonies to form themselves into a Parliament of an upper and lower House, it being at the same time intimated that so soon as this arrangement shall have been brought into operation, the crown will concede to them the management of their own affairs, including the entire receipts from the public lands, so as to assimilate their position to that of Canada.

THE PROVINCE OF VICTORIA.

EXTENT.

The province of Victoria (called by its first explorer, Sir Thomas Mitchell, *Australia Felix*, from the beautiful scenery and luxuriant appearance of the country) comprises the extreme southern portion of Australia, and lies between the parallels of 37 and 39 deg. S. lat., and the meridian of 141 deg. and 150 deg. E. long. Its length from east to west is 550 miles, and its breadth from north to south 300 miles. The area is computed at 100,000 square miles, or rather more than twice the extent of the State of New York. The province is bounded on the north and north-east by a straight line drawn from Cape Howe to the nearest source of the river Murray, and thence by the course of that river to the eastern boundary of South Australia. On the south it is separated from Van Dieman's Land by Bass' Straits.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.

This province throughout its whole extent is highly diversified; in the Eastern section rise the Snowy Mountains, or Australian Alps, towering 7,000 or 8,000 feet—a continuation of the range of the Blue Mountains of New South Wales; further to the south-west is the Strzelecki Range, running through Gippsland. The central portion of the province is occupied by hills of moderate elevation, being partially wooded, and covered with the richest herbage. To the west rise the Pyrenees and Grampian Mountains. The low country, on the north and south of the various hills and mountain ranges, is chiefly open, and on the south undulates towards the coast. Notwithstanding the mountainous nature of some parts of the province, Victoria contains a large proportion of fertile, accessible, and comparatively level land within its

boundaries. The country is well watered, by both rivers and lakes. The Murray rises in the Australian Alps, and receives numerous other rivers in its course, which flow over extensive plains in directions parallel with its own. The coast line is, in some parts, deeply indented by numerous and capacious ports and inlets, while in others it is monotonous in the extreme—a long tract, called Ninety Mile Reach, on the south-east coast, being almost unbroken by inlet or cove. The principal port, and which formerly gave name to the province, is called Port Phillip, after Arthur Phillip, first Governor of New South Wales; it is a capacious harbor, 40 miles in breadth by 60 in length. The entrance is not two miles wide, and is narrowed by rocks off Point Nepean, and by shoals on the opposite headland. The province is divided into 24 counties, and several Commissioners' districts.

THE GOLD REGION.

The gold region of Victoria is of far less extent than the sister colony of New South Wales, but is far richer in mineral wealth, and is much easier of access. The number of diggers at present in the various gold fields of Victoria is estimated as high as 100,000! and the average earnings may be reckoned at an ounce of gold per man per week.

The astonishing richness of the Mount Alexander district is evidenced in the large amounts of the auriferous mineral which it yields, notwithstanding the immense quantities that have been already drawn from it. This is, we should suppose, the richest gold digging in the known world, and is easier to be got at, with less labor, as the deposit is found in a bed of blueish clay. The whole region, extending twenty miles north to Bendigo Creek, is full of the treasure which has drawn, and is drawing, into Victoria all the worst characters of society, and has impregnated her population with an enormous amount of vice and crime: in fact, has attracted into one focus all the villainy of these colonies, the pestilential effect of which is painfully felt by the honest and industrious portion of the commu-

nity. Mount Alexander is seventy-five miles north-west of Melbourne.

Ballarat diggings are again getting in favor, and their productiveness is being more fully developed. The gold at Ballarat is more unequally distributed than at Mount Alexander, and therefore unsuccessful diggers are more numerous than at the latter place. But then the individual gains in some places are greater. The labor is more severe than at the Mount, as the gold lies deeper, and more trials have to be made before the deposits are struck upon. Ballarat was the first gold field discovered in Victoria, and is 50 miles from Geelong. The country around Ballarat and the neighboring mountain, Buninyong, is an open forest, in the midst of a magnificent agricultural district. There are pretty valleys on each side of the mountain clothed with timber, and verdant meadows spread at the bottom.

The capabilities of the River Ovens as a very rich field, may now be deemed an admitted fact. The amount brought into Melbourne as yet has been comparatively small, and it is known that large quantities have been carried overland to Sydney, and all reports agree in attesting the richness of the locality. The data for determining the value of these diggings are incomplete, but enough has been shown to indicate the existence of very large quantities of the precious metal there. The labor is severe, owing to the superabundance of water, but the chances are greatly in favor of the industrious worker.

There are many other localities in the province where gold has been found by explorers, and in paying quantities; but the limited extent of the deposits prevents any numerous party from engaging upon them.

CITIES AND PRINCIPAL SETTLEMENTS.

Melbourne is the chief city of Victoria, and in 1838 was a settlement comprised of a few huts, 2 small wooden houses served for inns to accommodate the settlers who frequented the place, and a small wooden building, with a ship's bell suspended from a tree, was used as a place of worship for the various sects

of religionists then living in the colony, and two or three stores formed the emporiums for the sale of such articles as were required by the colonists. Melbourne is situated on the Yarra-yarra river, which empties itself into Hobson's Bay, in Port Phillip, about seven miles below the city. The water of the river is too shallow to allow large vessels to come up to the city, and they are obliged to load and unload at Williamstown, in Hobson's Bay. Notwithstanding this difficulty, Melbourne has increased at a rate that few places can equal. In 1846, eight years after its settlement, it contained, (according to the census,) 10,945 inhabitants; in 1851, the number had increased to 23,143; and at the close of 1852, consequent on the immense immigration, and its proximity to the gold diggings, it numbered 55,449 inhabitants. The streets are wide, and laid out at right angles. The buildings are generally low, and many are built of wood, but there are some large and commodious stores and handsome houses built of stone and brick. The Government House is built of a dark blue whinstone and a light greyish granite judiciously blended. The Court House and Jail have been erected at a cost of \$150,000; and the Mechanics' Institute, which is of stone, at \$20,000. But the public buildings on the aggregate are small, and not in proportion to the present size of the city, without reckoning the increase it seems likely to attain. There are numerous churches and places of worship, but none particularly worthy of notice. It has a Chamber of Commerce and several literary societies. Melbourne is ill paved, badly lit, and without water, and altogether a mean-looking place, when compared with Sydney, which it seems likely soon to rival, in population at least. It is devoid of all those handsome structures which adorn the latter city, many of which were erected by convict labor and at the public expense, by money drawn from the Exchequer of Great Britain and the colony, at that time when the Governors held despotic sway, and particularly during the administration of that "Prince of Architects," Governor Macquarrie. A handsome

bridge has lately been built over the Yarrayarra, at a cost of \$70,000. In Melbourne has concentrated the great amount of Australian emigration, and in this respect it is the New York of Australia. For some months past, about 5,000 men, women and children, per week, have been pouring into the city, and when it is recollected that Melbourne, from its size and newness, is utterly unprepared to receive so large an accession to its numbers, is it to be wondered at that we hear of a large amount of disappointment, misery and crime? What would be the state of Portland, or New Bedford, or any of our smaller ports, and the situation of the people, if the immigrants to this country, instead of landing in a large city like New York, were to be poured indiscriminately into one of those places, after a sea voyage of some 16,000 miles? By late accounts, we find that the Provincial Government has voted \$40,000, and private individuals have subscribed \$20,000, to provide temporary shelter for newly-arrived immigrants. The Methodist connection have erected temporary buildings for members of their own communion, and wooden cottages are springing up in all directions. Yet, notwithstanding all these efforts, great privation is experienced. The over-crowding of the city, and the neglect of sanitary regulations, have been signally disastrous in a great many cases. The value of the city property is high, and rents are enormous. It is estimated that 10,000 persons are now living in tents which they had brought with them, and have located themselves on the south side of the city, on a lot of land given for that purpose by the City Corporation. The following description of the tented suburb we have in a fresh arrival:—"The tents of new-comers have indeed been pitched in such multitudes, on a piece of ground appropriated to this purpose, on the south of the Yarrayarra, that a complete canvass town has arisen there. The tents are arranged in regular streets and squares, and the Mayfair (London) lounge may find amongst them promenades which will recall his old haunts to him by name, if in no other respect. At the corner of Regent

street a round tent, surmounted by a red flag, shows us where to turn off into Piccadilly; nor are Oxford street and the Strand without their canvass representatives. Some of the tents are poor-looking enough, but others, ornamented with green and gold arabesques at the ridge, and set off with jaunty flags, indicate that their proprietors have started gold digging, as though it were a highly remunerative pastime, resembling a cricket match. One row of tents, called Himalaya-terrace, and jumbled up between Oxford street and Regent street, with very little regard to topographical propriety, has derived its name from a monstrous erection that seems to have been conceived by some imaginative tentmaker in a fit of insanity. Rising on a small round base, it towers up like Dawalagri, and though calculated to accommodate any number of persons 'on end' one over another, there appears to be no room for reposing horizontally except by coiling round the central mast. The observant spectator of the canvass city, indeed, is much struck by the diversely shaped and size tents which meet his view, and he is puzzled to imagine what object either maker or importer, could have contemplated when devising such extraordinary structures. Such as they are, however, some thousands of men, women and children find their 'local habitation' in them at present, nor does there for the most part seem any disposition among the hardly-trying new chums to magnify difficulties, or to be readily turned from their intended course."

Melbourne is 600 miles S. W. of Sydney, and 500 miles S. E. of Adelaide. It is the see of an Episcopal Bishop.

Gold is found in small quantities in the immediate vicinity of Melbourne, and even in its streets, and lead ore, containing a large admixture of silver, is found eleven miles East of the city.

There are several flourishing villages in the neighborhood of Melbourne, of which the principal are Richmond, Collingwood, Abbotsford and Brighton. The latter village is ten miles from Melbourne, on Port Phillip, and is a favorite resort of the

citizens of Melbourne in the summer months, who go there to enjoy the refreshing breezes of the sea.

Geelong is the second place in the province. It is 45 miles S. W. of Melbourne, contains 8,000 inhabitants, and is rapidly increasing. It has numerous public buildings, literary societies, several churches, court-house and jail. The town stands high on the margin of a fine open bay, on the west side of Port Philip, and has a splendid back country, beautifully diversified, clothed with park-like timber, and well watered. This town is affected in a similar manner to Melbourne, being overrun by immigrants. Large quantities of wheat are grown on the Barabool hills, adjoining Geelong, the yield being about 50 imperial bushels to the acre; and there are numerous vineyards in the vicinity.

Portland, 220 miles S. W. of Melbourne, is a flourishing sea port, on Portland Bay. Has numerous churches, court house, &c. The bay is rather exposed to a heavy swell during four months of the year, which renders landing rather dangerous; but during the remaining eight months the wind blows off the land, when it is perfectly safe. The interior exhibits one of the richest and most desirable countries in the world, fit either for grazing or the plough.

Belfast, 180 miles S. W. of Melbourne, is likewise growing considerably. It is a maritime town on Port Fairy. The surrounding country has fine sheep and cattle runs, extending far away into the interior, and along the coast to Warmambool is extremely fine for agricultural purposes.

Westernport is a considerable arm of the sea, lying S. E. of Port Philip, and from 40 to 60 miles S. E. of Melbourne. Coal is found in considerable quantities around the port, and for ten miles on the Bourne river, which empties itself into the port, and reappears six miles along the coast at Cape Patterson, where the coal rises to the surface, so that within 100 miles of Melbourne there exists coal measures, extending almost uninterruptedly along the coast.

Alberton, 135 S. E. E. of Melbourne, on the Albert river, is at present a small village. It is situated in that portion of the province called Gippsland, which, from the beauty of its scenery, is called the Switzerland of Australia. This will be a desirable district when the valleys shall have become settled by an industrious agricultural population, and its resources get fully developed. At present the population is small.

RIDES TO MOUNT ALEXANDER.

For the edification of our readers, we here insert two letters, descriptive of Rides from Melbourne to the gold diggings at Mount Alexander. We give them to show what different stories two individuals can tell of the same place, about the same time—the light and dark sides of the picture. The first is from a young man residing in Melbourne, and the second is from the correspondent of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The last, coming as it does from the advocate of a rival province, (New South Wales,) we may fairly put down as being a little exaggerated—particularly that portion which relates the bullock driver's feast in the Black Forest. This puts Bruce's Abyssinian Feast completely in the shade.

First, then, let us read what our Melbourne friend has written :

“My ride to the diggings at Mount Alexander was a very pleasant one ; the country was beautifully green and verdant ; and although there were many bad tracts, the creeks were passable, and the muddy places not too frequent. After leaving the city, you go for about two miles through a gentle, undulating, park-like country, called the Town Reserve, until you cross a large creek at the village of Flemington, where for about three miles you ride through an enclosed country, dotted with villages and farm houses. Five miles from the city the roads diverge, the left-hand track goes through an enclosed country for about eight miles, a considerable portion of which is under cultivation, and crosses the Saltwater River by a bridge at the village of Keilor. The river flows at the bottom of a deep valley, and is about 200 feet below the level of the

plains. After leaving the enclosed country, you ride for about two miles without coming near any sign of cultivation, and with hardly a tree a much greater distance. A village, sprung up since the diggings, is then passed, containing a public house, an eating shop and a police station. Hence to Gisborne village is about 15 miles, five miles over the plains, and the remainder through a lightly timbered country, full of valleys and creeks, and blessed with a black rich soil. This is the left hand road. That on the right crosses the Saltwater River twice, under the names of the Deep Creek and Johnson's Creek. There are two public houses on this road, whose general aspect is much the same as the other. Gisborne is a rising place, with two inns, both horrible places now a-days, although as good as can be expected from the character of some of the frequenters. There are also some cottages, two stores, a butcher's, a blacksmith's, and a police station. The soil is magnificent, though wet, and the scenery beautiful. As to the roads and creeks, they are here impassable. At this place the Black Forest commences, and the road for over a distance of 12 miles is over low ranges densely timbered. Mount Macedon, covered with thick timber to the summit, looking remarkably lowering and gloomy, peeping ever and anon through a vista in the forest, the landscape reminds you of the days of Robin Hood, and there is just enough of danger to make it popular. Several deeds of violence have been committed here, but since the establishment of the mounted patrol, and the erection of a police barrack, these events have decreased in number and atrocity. At the end of the forest is Five Mile Creek, the head of the Campaspe, with a rising village, called Wood End, containing two inns. After crossing the creek, if you can, and going through a forest containing five miles of splendid land, you reach Carlsruhe, the present head-quarters of the gold mounted police. Three miles further on, following the valley of the Campaspe, Kyneton is reached. There must be near 2,000 persons living here, a great number of diggers having their wives and chil-

dren resident at this place. There are four public houses and a spacious hotel; a police magistrate and a large police station, with a hospital, church, schools, and all other essentials of a town. While staying at this hotel, I saw the escort go by with about 60,000 ounces, guarded by ten troopers, two drivers and a lieutenant in charge. Five miles from Kyneton, over lightly timbered plains, is the Colyban river, which you cross by a bridge. There is another new township called Malmesbury, where stores, public houses, &c., are springing up with mushroom-like rapidity, despite the high price of labor. From Malmesbury the appearance of the country changes, bearing traces of a volcanic origin, and to the left of the road is a mountainous range. Five miles from Colyban is another creek, and hilly ranges covered with quartz are then entered upon. Four miles off is what is called the Sawpit Gulley. Here the roads to the different diggings diverge; one crosses the side of the mountain (Mount Alexander) to Bendigo, the left hand to Triars, and the centre to Forest Creek. At Sawpit Gulley is another police station."

We now give the "yarn" about the ride of the *Sydney Morning Herald's* correspondent. It will no doubt be highly interesting to the lovers of robbery and romance.

"I will now describe, with consistent brevity, the road between the city and one of her gold fields, viz., Mount Alexander. We shall scarcely have left the city ere we find that extortion continues to increase. Very ordinary colonial ale is sold in the suburbs as English, for the modest price of 9d. per glass. Cold and warm 'nobbles' vary from 9d. to 1s. each, depending chiefly on the state of temper of the good hostesses on the road. Notwithstanding that the inn keepers *en route* to the diggings are mostly making rapid fortunes, there is but little civility to be met with from them, while the countenances of their wives wear an aspect of sourness. Having made the first ten miles we bring up at the Lady of the Lake public house, a fair specimen of what is to be expected as we proceed.

The outside of the house is quite as repulsive in appearance as the inside. About half a dozen small and dirty rooms, admirably invented for making the guests uncomfortable. But the embryo digger is glad to hear that he can be accommodated for the night—that he can sleep securely in a room with five or six strangers, not of the choicest exterior, in beds and bed-clothes that indicate a scarcity of soap and water, and all for three shillings—that he is expected to ‘dub up’ the very moment he has bolted the meal—that if his digestion is good he is not restricted in quantity, in respect to salt junk and damper, with as much tea (?) as he finds necessary. Nor must we forget that the landlord in the most obliging manner requests that the beds may be paid for before they are occupied, some of the guests having been troubled in the mornings with an absence of memory strongly indicative of the times. For the small sum of 30s. your horse can be stabled during the night; he is safe in the morning, unless some enterprising bushranger should take a fancy to him. The next halt is at the ‘Bush Inn,’ previous to arriving at which, for some four or five miles, we shall pass through a road as bad as possible. In wet weather it is a complete sluice. Drays, carts, and horses, stuck here and there, tell what a struggle we have to make in order to move along. In bad weather a knot an hour is good work. But we are at the Bush Inn at length, and have accomplished half the distance to the Mount, and in the same ratio we hope to find our troubles past. Alas! it is not so. Let us take a night’s rest and gird ourselves well for the following day; there is need of it! First, of the inn itself, it is knocked up in a hurry, and intended to accommodate the public, and the landlord is as civil as any man is expected to be who has made £30,000 in less than twelve months. A regular cordon of bushrangers locate themselves in the neighborhood, who make constant visits to the inn in various disguises, in order to feel their way. It cannot be a man of ordinary feelings who could really *sleep* a night in this place,—what

with the noises from the drunken men, the fear of losing one's horse, and pardon me if I allude to personal fears we entertain in this place. History tells of the exploits of the famous English Turpin and his mare Black Bess. Those who have inherited this highwayman's genius in this colony, have perpetrated deeds of which Turpin would have been proud. I cannot do more than make one or two passing allusions to some of the doings of these gentlemen.

“Robbing drays and huts goes for nothing, stealing horses the same; but fancy stopping women, and politely requesting them to take off their rings! Or let us laugh at the idea, if we dare laugh at crime, at stern justices of the peace being deprived of their boots! In one of these cases, the magistrate appealed to the bandit's feeling,—‘I am liable to cold, and, if deprived of my boots, this may be the death of me; besides the ground is wet, I cannot take them off.’ ‘Never mind, sir,’ says the implacable robber, placing his hat on the wet ground, ‘put your feet in here.’ Fortunately the boots did not fit. In another case a worshipful was robbed, stripped of everything, tied to a tree, and by way of consolation, a pipe full of tobacco and lighted was placed in his mouth.

“These scenes are daily and nightly occurring in the neighborhood of the Bush Inn. Robberies and murders are so common that they are now received and listened to as though they were ‘matters of course,’ things inseparable from a journey to Mount Alexander. This inn being on the very verge of the famous Black Forest, is necessarily exposed to attacks. It may or may not be conducted properly; on that subject I will not pass an opinion; but one thing strikes me as certain, that the Government are much to blame for not establishing a stronger police force on this spot, were it only in a measure to satisfy the public that something was done for its protection.

“This ‘Black Forest,’ this den of thieves and murderers, is about twelve miles in length, and the road, if road it can be called, passes through near the centre. Its appearance more

resembles the road of retreat of an army than anything else. There are literally hundreds of drays and other vehicles stuck in it, for the mud is generally over the wheels. The stench of dead horses and bullocks is truly shocking. Putting on one side the chance of being robbed, a journey through the forest is by no means free from danger; to be smothered in mud is no enviable death. In every part of the place we meet with men in search of stray bullocks and horses; and as a slight example of the brutal, we may say disgusting, practices hourly carried on in this Pandemonium, some bullock drivers *were actually cutting steaks from one of the dead bullocks, and devouring them uncooked while I passed them.* A number of drays and carriages are totally abandoned, provisions and all; in other cases the drays are partly relieved of their load; while in many instances, to my knowledge, the journey has occupied four months!

“Having escaped from the dangers of the Black Forest, as well as the many deep creeks, the traveller will not regret being in the neighborhood of the township of Kyneton; he will then be within about twenty miles of Mount Alexander. But this township—what a place! We must imagine several hundred houses dropped from the clouds, or any other place, into a mud-bank about a mile in length—there is no trace of the streets—There are two or three hotels here, as well as about an equal number of lodging houses. The traveller and his horse may be sheltered for one night at the cost of fifty shillings. The sooner he turns his back on the place the better; it is the first stage from the diggings, and numbers of the highwaymen prowl about here in order to have the first cut at the returning digger. The night before I passed thro' Kyneton a murder had taken place at one of the hotels. Robberies are so common that unless accompanied with loss of life they are but little noticed. The only question generally asked is, the amount of 'swagg' lost on the occasion. The rest of the journey to the nearest point of Mount Alexander diggings

may be reached in one day. The monotony of the road will be occasionally relieved by a swim across some of the numerous deep rivers, including the Columbine and the Campaspie. Once on the road we can never again miss it; for the satisfaction of those who are nervous on this head, it will be necessary to state that the roads vary in breadth from half a mile to three or four miles."

THE CITY OF GOLD AND CANVASS.

Having given our readers two representations of the ride to Mount Alexander, we here present them with a description of the city built there, such as it was a few months ago. In a few more months it will, perhaps, be the city of gold and iron, instead of gold and canvass, for already are numerous galvanized iron churches, schools, hotels, stores, houses, cottages, &c., on their way from England, to take the place of the canvass tents. At one establishment alone, the Clift House Works, at Bristol, a complete city of iron has been manufactured, and is partly on its way to Melbourne, to shelter the hordes of immigrants in the land of gold. The following communication is from one who tried his fortune at the Mount Alexander mines:

"Descending from the eminence on which I had been standing, and taking the main road through the valley, one becomes more and more confident that he is entering some vast and populous city. Men are moving backwards and forwards, some returning from their labor, and laden with cumbrous utensils needful for carrying on their work; others proceeding to their toil—some bargaining, others lounging about, well satisfied with what they have made during the day. Meanwhile, the noise of the hammer, the anvil and the bellows are heard, betraying the unceasing toil of artificers, and that other modes of gold-finding exist besides that of mining the earth. Not a few females, too, enliven the scene, dressed as bonnily and looking as busily as housewives in Melbourne or Sydney do when engaged in the important task of purveying for the family. With hardly an exception, they all appeared of the

better class of society, and are indeed a great acquisition to the mining population, tending to banish roughness and brutality, and materially conducing to the comfort of those with whom they are connected. Nor are children wanting—groups may be seen here and there, engaged in the customary childish games, and utterly regardless of the scene around them. The querulous cry of infancy, too, heard through the flimsy tent covers, bears testimony to the fact of these sweet innocents still existing to the annoyance of bachelors. Stores, too, of every form and shape, meet your eye, from the humble slab and canvass to the more dignified deal board tenement.”

RELIGION, EDUCATION, ETC.

The laws regarding religion and education are the same in Victoria as in New South Wales. Unlike the latter Colony, the number of houses of worship is very limited, when compared with the population. Schools and scholars in the province are increasing though not in a ratio with population. The number of children attending school, in 1846, was over five thousand.

POPULATION.

The population of the province, by the census taken in 1836, numbered only 224 persons; in 1841, 11,738; in 1846, 32,895; in 1851, 114,886; at the close of 1852, 220,000; and at the present time it cannot be less than 300,000.

TRADE, REVENUE, ETC.

The trade of Victoria is increasing prodigiously. The export articles are nearly the same as the sister province, viz., gold, wool, oil, tallow, hides, salt beef, cattle and sheep. The product of gold is now estimated to equal £15,000,000 sterling, or nearly \$75,000,000 per annum. The export of wool, which in 1837 amounted to 175,081 lbs., had increased in 1849 to 12,697,440 lbs. The imports in 1837 amounted to £106,939, and the exports to £12,180; in 1847, imports, £437,696, exports, £688,511; imports, 1851, £1,056,000, exports, £1,423,000. Up to September, 1851, no gold had been ex-

ported. The exports in 1852 (including gold) were estimated at about seventy millions of dollars!

The live stock, which in 1843 numbered 4,065 horses, 100,792 horned cattle, 1,140,433 sheep and 3,041 swine, had increased in 1852 to 40,116 horses, 798,358 horned cattle, 8,520,019 sheep and 15,940 swine. The cultivation of the grape has been commenced and promises well. There were under crop in 1847, 78 acres; in 1848, 101 acres; wine made, 3,900 gallons, and brandy 80 gallons. Land in cultivation in 1850, 51,536 acres. Amount of cash in circulation in 1851, (before the gold discoveries,) coin £276,243; paper money, £141,536. The little manufacturing that had been introduced into the province was entirely suspended in 1851, through the gold discoveries. There are several whaling stations around Portland Bay and the south-west coast.

The following items will show the rapid increase of the revenue: Customs and postage, last quarter, 1850, £31,330; last quarter, 1851, £42,041; first quarter, 1852, £75,272. Land sales, licenses, &c., last quarter, 1850, £37,008; last quarter, 1851, £102,307; first quarter, 1852, £156,827; third quarter, 1852, £388,447. Total revenue, first quarter, 1851, £49,118; second quarter, 1851, £161,167; third quarter, 1851, £183,194; first quarter, 1852, £232,099; second quarter, £285,086; third quarter, £462,340. Land sales last six months, 1851, £98,000; land sales three months ending September, 1852, £267,754.

The estimates for 1853, as laid before the Legislature:—The ways and means are set down at £1,733,600; the expenditure at £1,749,042. Of this latter sum not less than £412,715 are for police establishments; £94,449 for penal establishments, the administration of justice, £42,280, military, £67,489—making a grand total of £616,933 to be spent in protecting life and property, and repressing crime!

A company has been formed for the purpose of constructing a Railroad from Williamstown (Hobson's Bay,) to Melbourne,

thence to Mount Alexander and the River Murray, via Bendigo and the northern gold fields, with an extension line to Geelong. Distance from Williamstown to Melbourne, 7 miles; from Melbourne to Mount Alexander, 76 miles; the latter place to Bendigo, 18 miles, and from Bendigo to the River Murray, 46 miles—total, 147 miles. A bill has been introduced into the Legislature for the purpose of effecting the object of the Company. It is intended, in connection with the railroad, to run steamboats on the Murray, and thus form a direct communication with South Australia. A bill has also been introduced into the Legislature for the establishment of another Bank in Melbourne, to be called "The Bank of Victoria," with a capital of \$5,000,000.

SOCIETY.

This colony was settled by an enterprising, steady and industrious population, comprised of persons chiefly engaged in pastoral and agricultural pursuits, who, by dint of their own exertions, enjoyed that "happy medium" of existence, being far removed from penury and want on the one hand, and superfluous wealth on the other. Unlike their fellow-settlers in New South Wales, they were not afflicted with the evils of convict transportation, and consequently received none of the *benefits* arising from that system.

The operative farming classes, shepherds, herdsmen and bushmen generally, present a rough and sturdy exterior, and exhibit a manliness of deportment, a feeling of democratic equality, not to be found among their fellows in the most favored localities of the British Isles. They have none of that loutishness which marks the English farm laborer, or the sullenness of the Scotch agricultural servant, and certainly none of that whining servility so common among the "finest pisintry in the world!"

The farmers and squatters, the yeomanry of the province, are a vigorous and independent body of men, well-proportioned, seldom showing any appearance of paunch, or inclination to

obesity. Whatever bad effects the "accursed appetite for gold" may have had on some portions of the community, they still appear to retain their good qualities. That excellent man, author, and member of the Society of Friends, William Howitt, who is now residing in Victoria, and who undertook a journey last December to the Ovens River Diggings, 250 miles north-east of Melbourne, thus writes of the farmers and squatters: "The greatest thing that can be said of this country is, that the better classes are exceedingly kind and hospitable, and considering their isolated lives, not deficient in general information. I am sure I shall always have occasion to remember the kindness of the inhabitants of the bush. Every house, if we had desired it, would have opened itself to us a home, and but for bush kindness I should, perhaps, not be writing this letter."

A squatter, who was once a "limb of the law" in London, thus speaks of himself: "Eleven years ago I commenced business as a squatter, with 4,000 sheep, for which I gave £4,000, including the 'right of the run,' and a few horses and bullocks with a dray. This season I shall shear 30,000 sheep, and I have a thousand head of cattle, and a hundred horses, besides the improvements on the stations, as the reward of my exertion, and the natural increase of stock since that time. And if all things go well this year, I shall realize from £1,200 to £1,500 (\$6,000 to \$7,000,) clear profit from my wool and tallow. So much for the result. The manner I set to work at the beginning was to reside for a twelvemonth prior to my purchasing stock, upon a station, where I gave my services free, to obtain a practical knowledge of the details of every employment necessary on a sheep farm, by acting in the capacity of hut keeper, shepherd, shearer, and overseer. In England I had been educated in, and practised the legal profession, and I never supposed that I should have taken so kindly to this rude occupation; but I am thankful now that I threw up the quill and the desk for the sheep-shears and the wool-press,

for the life of a squatter has made a better man of me, both in mind and body. Instead of being a pale and slender ghost, flitting about the dingy courts of law, earning nothing more than a living for myself and family, here I am, a stout, able-bodied man, browned by the genial exposure to our glorious climate, and able to ride round my run, a distance of fifty miles, in six hours, while I am monarch of all I survey."

GOVERNMENT, HISTORY, ETC.

The Government of this province is conducted by a Lieut.-Governor, and Executive and Legislative Councils, whose appointment and election are similar to the same bodies in New South Wales. The cities and counties also elect Councils for their own internal management.

In the year 1803, Captain Flinders surveyed the coast, and claimed the country for Great Britain; and the same year an attempt was made (under order of Gov. King, of New South Wales,) by Colonel Collins, with a party of convicts, to form a settlement at Westernport, which failed, from the badness of the location and the scarcity of fresh water. This failure led to the settlement on the Derwent River, in Van Diemen's Land; and it is not a little singular that the first settlers in the renewed effort to colonize this province were from that island. In 1835, Mr. Batman, a squatter in Van Diemen's Land, crossed Bass's Straits to Port Phillip, where he found rich pasturage, and the year following, he, with a few others, settled near the entrance of the Yarrayarra River into Port Phillip, close to where now stands the city of Melbourne. The same year, Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, explored the country from the Snowy Mountains on the East, and Murray River on the North, to the Glenelg River on the West, close to the boundary line of South Australia. He followed the course of the Glenelg, reached the ocean at Portland Bay, where he found, much to his surprise, a whaling station, belonging to the Messrs. Henty. He afterwards turned to the north-east, to the centre of the province. He ascended

to the summit of Mount Macedon, where he passed the night in a storm of rain, without shelter. In the morning, the weather cleared up, and the sun shone forth with a deep refulgent splendor. He beheld on the south the lake-like and placid waters of Port Phillip bay; on the north, looming in the distance, the lofty peak of the gold-bound Mount Alexander; on the west, the towering Buninyong, the auriferous Ballarat, and the volcanic (now vine-clad) hills of Barrabool. And he descanted in glowing terms, in his record of the event, on the wide spread park-like plains, the lofty and forest clad hills and mountains of his "Australia Felix."

The flockmasters of Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales, taking advantage of the Squatting Act, which allowed them to occupy suitable land for pastoral purposes beyond the limits of sale and location, on payment of an annual fee of fifty dollars, soon converted this empire of solitude into a vast sheep and cattle farm. The first sale of town lots in Melbourne took place in 1837.

On the 1st of July, 1851, the Port Phillip District, by the desire of the inhabitants, was separated from New South Wales, and erected into the province of Victoria, with an Executive and Legislature of its own. The gold discovery in this province took place in the August following.

PROVINCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

EXTENT.

This section of Australia was created a British Province by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, (passed in the session of 1834,) which fixed its limits between the 26th deg. of South latitude and the sea coast, and 132 and 141 deg., East long., of Greenwich. All the islands near the coast are included within its boundaries. The coast line extends from a short distance west of Cape Adieu, and near the head of the great Australian Bight, at its western extremity, to a little beyond Cape Northumberland on the east, where it meets the boundary line of Victoria. It is 850 miles from North to South, and 520 miles from East to West. The area is computed to be 300,000 square miles. The settled portion of the province does not extend further north than the 32d deg., of latitude, is confined within the east side of Spencer's Gulf, and the boundary line of Victoria, excepting the settlement at Port Lincoln, on the west side of Spencer's Gulf and the settlements on Kangaroo Island. Nine counties only are at present formed. The western and northern sections of the province are little known.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.

The great distinguishing features of South Australia are the two great Gulfs of Spencer and St. Vincent, which penetrate near the centre of the coast line. Spencer's Gulf extends into the interior for upwards of two hundred miles. St. Vincent Gulf is much smaller, and is without either shoal or island. It is defended from the Southern Ocean by Kangaroo Island at its southern extremity. The coast to the westward of Spencer's Gulf is generally flat and uninteresting, and consists of rocky bays and sandy beaches. To the south-east of St.

Vincent Gulf the country presents few distinctive elevations—Mounts Gambier and Schank, two volcanic cones, are the principal. To the north and north-east of St. Vincent Gulf the country is marked by two divisions, the one mountainous, the other level and but slightly elevated above the sea. The mountain range runs north and south; the greatest elevation does not exceed 3,500 feet. The southern extremity of the settled portion of the colony consists of hilly ridges, with extensive and fertile valleys. The principal ridges are Mounts Lofty, Barker, and Wakefield. The first runs from north-west to south-west, and attains the greatest height of 2,500 feet, about twelve miles east of Adelaide; it then declines towards the coast, where low cliffs terminate the range. The Barker ridge is parallel to the Lofty ridge, and forms a table land, (6 to 10 miles wide, 800 to 1,600 feet above the sea,) which divides the waters that flow into Gulf St. Vincent from those which flow into Lake Alexandrina and the Murray River. The Wakefield may be considered a disruption from the south-west extremity of the Barker ridge.

Stretching away to the north, and within a short distance of the head of Spencer's Gulf, and thence to the east and south, is Lake Torrens. It is in the shape of a sickle, and its water is salt. With the exception of the Murray and a few others, the numerous rivers are merely chains of ponds in the height of summer.

Of the soil in the settled portions of the province, there is little that can be called barren. The principal portion is used for pastoral purposes, and the rich soil of the valleys, and the alluvial flats bordering on the Murray and the various lakes and lagoons connected with it, yield abundant crops of grain, of the finest quality. The alluvion is generally composed of soil, nine inches to a foot in depth, on a substratum of coarse calcarious rock, and gives evidence of having been at no very remote period covered by the sea, every stone picked up being part of the rock, and exhibiting a congeries of small shells. Over the

hills and between the mountains and the mouth of the Murray the soil and vegetation are very rich.

THE COPPER AND GOLD REGIONS.

The Copper region at present known extends from the Narrien Mountains in the north to the extreme south point of Cape Jervis, being about 200 miles N. and S. by 80 miles E. and W. The principal mines are the Burra Burra, about 100 miles N. N. E. of Adelaide. These were started in 1845, by a few merchants and traders of Adelaide, with a capital of \$60,000. In five years, by these slender means, the company raised 56,000 tons of copper, the value of which was \$3,600,000. The metal "crops out" of the surface in such quantities that hundreds of tons may be removed without sinking a shaft; it resembles *quarrying* in metal rather than mining. In one place, where a shaft has been sunk, it seems like working in a bed of solid copper. The other principal mines are the Kapunda, Montacute, Rapid Bay, Mount Barker, Wakefield, Glen Osmond and Greenock. Nearly all the ore hitherto raised has been sent to England for the purpose of smelting, but the vast coal fields when worked will enable the Australians to smelt their own copper.

The gold diggings at present discovered are situate at Echunga, on the Onkaparinga River. Their yield is just about sufficient to keep those colonists within the province who would rather be doing anything than steady work. The number working at the diggings is somewhere about 400 persons.

PRINCIPAL CITY AND SETTLEMENTS.

Adelaide, the Capital of the province, is about six miles from the east coast of St. Vincent's Gulf and is divided by the Torrens river into two unequal parts. The situation is beautiful, and the city is surrounded by a park about 500 yards wide. The streets are spacious and laid out at right angles, and varied by six squares and other pieces of land laid out for ornamental purposes. The buildings both public and private, are substantial and elegant. It has numerous churches and

various meeting-houses for the various christian sects. Its Banks, Academies, Schools, and Scientific and Literary Institutions, all bear testimony to the superior character of its society, and of the enterprize of its citizens. We need no further proof than this, that in 1851, there were, in this city of 16,000 inhabitants, twelve printing establishments, from which were issued 13 newspapers—11 in English and two in the German languages. Two were daily, 4 semi-weekly, one tri-weekly, and 6 weekly. The panic reduced the number to 6 English papers—1 daily, 2 semi-weekly, 1 tri-weekly, and 2 weekly. The cause assigned was the emigration of compositors and subscribers to the diggings in Victoria. Adelaide is 500 miles N. W. of Melbourne, 850 in a direct line S. W. W. of Sydney, and 1,450 E. of Perth, in West Australia. It is the see of an Episcopal Bishop.

Port Adelaide is 8 miles from the city; it is a secure though barred harbor. It is proposed to connect the city and port by a railroad.

Glenelg is a village on Holdfast Bay, about the same distance from Adelaide as Port Adelaide. Large vessels unload in the Bay, and their cargoes are sent from hence to the city.

The villages are small and scattered. The principal are Wellington on the Murray, Mylanga on Lake Alexandrina, Kapunda, Goolwa, Noarlunga and Macclesfield. The principal farming districts are Mount Barker, the country north of it, and the alluvial flats bordering the Murray and the various lakes and rivers.

There is a flourishing settlement at Port Lincoln, on the west side of Spencer's Gulf, with a village, having its weekly paper. A copper mine exists in the neighborhood.

Kangaroo Island is situate on the south and south-west of St. Vincent Gulf, is about 100 miles from east to west, and 40 from north to south, where broadest. It is separated from Cape Jervis by Backstairs passage, a strait about seven miles wide. Kingscote is the only village on the island and is distant

from Adelaide 96 miles S. W. There are numerous sealing and fishing establishments on its coasts, and coal is found in abundance in the interior.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION.

The various religious societies previous to 1852 received aid from the colonial treasury. By a resolution of the Legislature passed that year, it was enacted, that no more money should be paid out of the revenue of the colony for the purposes of religious instruction, and that every church should be left to the voluntary support of its own members. Bishop Stowe, of Adelaide, in his last pastoral charge to the Episcopalian clergy of the diocese of South Australia, congratulates them on the large amount of voluntary support the church had received during the past year (notwithstanding the derangement in the province occasioned by the gold panic), as far exceeding the sums formerly voted by the Legislature to the purposes of their church.

The schools are on the free school plan; they are well provided for, and are very numerously attended.

POPULATION.

In August, 1839, the population of the province was 8,500; in 1845, 22,390; 1847, 31,153; 1849, 56,540; and 1852, 101,307.

TRADE, REVENUE, ETC.

This province is rising rapidly in commercial affairs. Its exports are gold, copper, lead, iron, wool, tallow, grain of all kinds and agricultural produce. The exports of colonial produce in 1840 was £15,660; 1845, 131,800; 1849, £446,643; total exports, 1849, £485,922; total imports, 1849, £471,526. Land in cultivation, 1840, 2,503 acres; 1845, 26,218 acres; 1847, 36,440 acres; 1851, 67,642 acres. Number of flouring mills, 1847, 25; and manufactories, 51. Revenue, 1847, £67,027; expenditure, £58,979. Quantity of land sold from the foundation of the colony to 1847, 480,944 acres.

SOCIETY.

The state of society in this province is best attested by the

small amount of crime. The execution of a criminal has never yet taken place; and the amount of offences, of every kind, for many years, has not exceeded twenty to thirty cases. The settlers are, for the most part, steady, industrious, and persevering, well educated, and possessed of moderate capital: in fact, they are a people possessing all the high moral character of the Puritans of old, without their peculiar religious acerbity or fanaticism.

A letter lately received from Adelaide gives so pleasing a picture of rural life in South Australia, that we venture to give the substance of it. The parents, who are now gray with age, but hale and vigorous, emigrated some years ago. In a short time they bought, at the upset price of \$5 per acre, a section of 84 acres, some twelve miles from Adelaide, and named it after their native place in England, "Hadfield." For some years they struggled to clear the land, and pay off the debt with which they were first encumbered. They are now free from debt, have cleared 20 acres, grow wheat on the hills and potatoes in the valleys, have nine bullocks, seven cows, a number of young cattle, and a horse; a garden, producing vegetables and fruits, including grapes. The account given of the sons, daughters and grandchildren of the family is quite patriarchal. Henry, James, John, and Elizabeth are settled, married and multiplied. Elijah is going to marry the daughter of the next neighbor. And the patriarch descants with honest pride on the comeliness of his wife, who "when dressed up for meeting on Sundays, is the same neat—I might say, elegant—figure that she used to be." But the gold mania has come down upon the colony, and whoever it has damaged, it has done no harm to our friends at Hadfield. They are selling their potatoes at Adelaide at 8s. sterling per bag of 112 lbs; their wheat at 6s. or 7s. per bushel.

GOVERNMENT, HISTORY, ETC.

The Government is conducted by a Lieut-Governor, and Executive and Legislative Councils, &c., similar to Victoria.

This colony is called "the model province" of Australia. It was the emanation from a Society formed in England, composed of men belonging to the Utilitarian and Radical Reformers of the British Empire. It was to be from the beginning a self-supporting and self-governing province; colonized by people, industrious, intelligent and moral, and thus form a diametrical contrast to the early settlements of the older colonies of Australia. The land was to be disposed of to actual settlers only, at an upset price of five dollars per acre, and the proceeds applied to the purposes of emigration. But, however specious the plan might appear in *theory*, it failed in being carried out in *practice*. Situated thousands of miles away from whence the plan of colonization originated, and distant nearly a thousand miles from the nearest settlement on the same continent, the early settlers had entirely to depend upon the amount of provisions, stock, &c., they brought with them, till such times they could raise food for themselves, or import it from abroad. For three or four years, sums, amounting in all to £225,382, were voted by the British Parliament for the support and maintenance of the colony. The settlers, however, by their exertions, overcame their difficulties, and the province became what it was intended to be, self-supporting.

The first settlement was made in 1837, at Adelaide, about the same time as the first settlement was made in Victoria, and the colony increased rapidly, though nothing like Victoria in the same space of time.

The following extract, from the speech of Gov. Gawler to the Legislative Assembly, April 3, 1840, will throw considerable light on the state of the colony at that time :

" Three years and a half ago, the spot on which we are now standing was a desert unknown to Europeans. Now we are surrounded by a populous, and to a considerable extent, handsome city. Our principal streets are lined with well-filled warehouses and shops, and crowded by all the attendants of native traffic; handsome and substantial buildings are to be

seen on every side, and are rapidly increasing. Our port, which a few years since was an unknown salt water creek, covered only by water fowl, and enclosed in a mangrove swamp, is now filled with large shipping from Europe, India, and the neighboring colonies. The swamp is traversed by a substantial road, and handsome wharves and warehouses are rising on its borders. * * * * The neighborhood of the Capital is studded with numerous and populous villages; while the more distant country, whether to the north, the east, or the south, is rapidly assuming, in population, that healthy and natural proportion which it ought to bear to the metropolis. Farming establishments are in active formation on every side; and it is now a matter not merely of hope, but of sober expectation, that our magnificent agricultural valleys will soon be filled with produce sufficient for home consumption. Flocks and herds of cattle from New South Wales already cover a tract of 200 miles in length. Our institutions are assuming a condition of stability. Our public departments have attained to a high degree of system and order. The aborigines have been kept under humane control; and considerable, though I regret to say, as yet unsatisfactory efforts, have been made towards their civilization. Property and private rights enjoy as much protection as in any country in the world; and peace, union, and good understanding reign throughout the community."

From this time the colony continued to grow healthily and vigorously. Farming establishments spread over the country, and grain became an article of export to the neighboring colonies, and even to Europe. The wheat exported rivalled the best Poland, and it sold in the London market for considerably more than the best English wheat. The settlers also continued to bring overland through the wilderness from the settlements in New South Wales, large additions to their live stock of sheep and cattle.

In 1845, it was discovered that the coast range extending northward from Cape Jervis to the Narrien Mountains, for a

distance of 200 miles, was highly metalliferous, and contained valuable mines of copper, thus adding materially to the resources and wealth of the country, which still kept steadily increasing in population, commerce and wealth.

The discovery of the gold mines in 1851, in the neighboring colonies, completely disorganized the province. Nearly all the mechanics, miners, and operatives, and many of the wealthier classes, were off to the diggings at Ballarat and Mount Alexander. Thus a country in the most healthy and vigorous state of existence—supplying the necessaries and comforts of civilized life—exhibited the novel appearance of depopulation, as though some frightful plague had doomed it to destruction. Men even got so scarce that the children would call out to their mothers when they happened to see one, “Mother, here’s a man coming.”

Although the province was regularly shaken to its foundation, and business affairs were deranged, still many conceived it their interest to remain. The judicious and vigorous measures of the Governor, Sir F. Young—his Bullion Act—the establishment of an Assay Office at Adelaide, and the opening of a road and establishing an escort to the gold mines of Victoria, brought a considerable amount of treasure into the province, restored the circulation, stimulated the land sales and the general course of trade. He also offered a reward of one thousand pounds sterling to any one who should discover a gold mine in the province.

These measures, aided by the discovery of gold at Echunga, near Adelaide, and the great demand and the high price paid for agricultural produce in the neighboring colonies, have induced most of the population to return, which, with the arrivals of large numbers of emigrants from Europe, have again restored the province to its pristine activity, and it is now steadily pursuing a course of prosperity.

THE GOLD DISCOVERY.

SIR R. MURCHISON.

Having gone through the three principal colonies of continental Australia, we shall now give a brief outline of the gold discovery,—an event which has attracted the attention of the civilized portion of the world to the capabilities and resources of these colonies, and has hastened on their growth at least half a century, and will render the Australia of 1860 what it might have been in 1920 had no such occurrence taken place. The rumors which had been circulated in the three provinces for several years previous, of gold being found by shepherds and bushmen, lead us to conjecture that the discovery was not altogether accidental; and in this idea we are somewhat strengthened by the hypothesis of Murchison.

In 1844, Sir Roderick Murchison, chairman of the British Geographical Society, noticed a work by Count Strzelecki (the discoverer of Gippsland, in Victoria), on the physical geography of Australia, and declared that on an examination of that traveller's collection of rocks, fossils, and maps, he could not but recognise a singular uniformity between the mountain ranges of the east and south of Australia and the auriferous Ural mountains in Russia. In 1846, he received evidence of the truth of his supposition in some specimens of gold quartz, sent to him from Australia. Thus confirmed, he advised a body of miners belonging to Cornwall county, England, to emigrate to Australia, to seek for gold among the debris of its older rocks. His advice, printed in the Cornwall county papers, and transmitted to Sydney, was so far successful, that, in 1848, he received letters from Australia, stating that they had detected gold, and hoping that the Government would modify the law as to make it worth while to engage in mining speculations.

In that same year, Murchison addressed a formal communication on the subject to the Colonial Minister, Earl Grey, but that statesman took no steps in consequence, "because he feared that the discovery of gold would be embarrassing to a wool-growing country!"

SMITH'S APPLICATION.

In 1849, a formal application was made to the authorities at Sydney, to know what reward would be given for the discovery of a gold district. The applicant, a member of the ubiquitous family of Smith, produced a specimen of gold imbedded in quartz. The reply was, that they could enter into no blind bargain on the subject, but if Mr. Smith chose to trust the government, he might rely upon being rewarded according to the value of his discovery. This answer being unsatisfactory, nothing more was heard of Mr. Smith, nor of gold-finding.

HARGRAVES DISCOVERS GOLD.

On April 30th, 1851, Mr. Hargraves addressed a letter to the Secretary of the province of New South Wales, stating that he had explored a considerable tract—that he had succeeded beyond his expectations as to gold—and that he would point out the localities on being assured of £500 upon the truth of his representations being ascertained. This Mr. Hargraves had left Australia to try his fortune in California—but, being struck with the similarity of structure of the Sierra Nevada and the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, he soon returned. To him the reply was the same as to Smith. Hargraves resolved to trust to the justice of Government, and named the Macquarie river, with the Lewis and Summerhill creeks branching from it. His communication was referred to the Geological Surveyor, but he (Hargraves) was too sharp to wait the movements of officials; he set some laborers to dig at Summerhill creek; and before the Surveyor could reach the spot, the Government had received notice (May 8, 1851) from the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Bathurst, first, that several ounces of gold had been found; next (May 15) that a man had found a piece weighing

thirteen ounces, and that the excitement among all classes was intense, thousands being already on the way to the diggings.

On the 19th of May the Geological Surveyor arrived there, and found about two thousand persons occupying a mile of the creek, each collecting with merely a tin dish from one to two ounces daily. The Governor felt the necessity of prompt action. A proclamation was issued, asserting the rights of the Crown to all gold found, and a system of licensing was established; each license being fixed at 30 shillings sterling (seven dollars and a half) per month, payable in advance, and no one to be eligible for a license unless he could prove that he was not absent from hired service without leave.

OPHIR.

The gold field at Summerhill—promptly named Ophir—lies 40 miles north-west of the town of Bathurst, over a clear and defined road, fit for carriages, and extending to the verge of the settled country. By the care of the Governor (Sir Charles Fitzroy), police stations were now established along the whole line of road, and a government escort for the conveyance of gold was set a-foot, the charge being one per cent on the value.

The Government was fortunate in finding an active and intelligent officer to carry these regulations into effect. Mr. Hardy, the commissioner appointed, arrived at the diggings on the 2d of June, and immediately began issuing licenses. He found about 1500 persons assembled; they were so orderly that he did not need a single constable, and so far from resisting the payment of a license fee, they were glad to be placed under the supervision of the Government. Those who had not money to pay gave gold, which was received at 64 shillings sterling per ounce for that obtained by washing, and 48 shillings by amalgamation.

On the 3d of June the Council of New South Wales bestowed on Hargraves £500, and an appointment as Commissioner of Crown Lands. He was at the same time informed, that it would be for the Imperial Government to grant him

such further remuneration as his discovery might be thought to deserve. Since the foregoing was written, by late accounts from Australia we find the citizens were feting Mr. Hargraves. A public dinner has been given to him by the citizens of Sydney. The citizens of Melbourne and the Government of Victoria likewise have not been backward in doing honor to the man through whose acuteness the colony has been enriched. He has also received the compliment of a territorial magistracy for Victoria, and has also been elected an honorary member of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, of the Mechanics' Institution, and of the Australian Geological Society. A subscription was also in progress for the purpose of presenting him with a piece of plate; a second with the object of obtaining his portrait; and it was probable that a handsome gratuity would be voted to him out of the public funds which he has done so much to swell.

THE TURON.

The Geological Surveyor, Mr. Stutchbury, found that gold was distributed over the bed of the Turon river, and much more evenly than in other places. This stream flows like the Summerhill and Lewis Creeks, into the Macquarrie, but 20 to 30 miles further to the east. The Turon runs through a spacious valley, in a broad and level course, between much higher hills, but distant on either side, and all formed of mica-slate without quartz veins, whereas at Summerhill the quartz veins are abundant. The river is without any of the abrupt elbows and narrow gorges which mark the creeks, and, as a consequence the gold is more evenly distributed and much finer in the grain. This fine gold he found diffused through the soil "as regularly as wheat in a sown field," but the yield was not in this part very large. It was suggested that nearer its source the ore would turn up more abundantly, though of coarser grain; and trial being made, within four days three men found ten pounds weight of gold. A thousand men were soon congregated at the Turon, and the average of each man was about

an ounce daily. By and by, after careful travel, Mr. Hargraves reported the course of the stream to be auriferous for at least 130 miles.

HUNDRED WEIGHT OF GOLD.

Some 20 miles north of the Turon is the Meroo, another tributary of the Macquarrie, and branching from it is the Louisa Creek. By this creek, a native shepherd, in the service of Dr. Kerr, discovered gold embedded in masses of quartz. He struck one of the blocks with his tomahawk and the pure ore was at once revealed. The gold was contained in three blocks of quartz, lying 100 yards distant from a quartz vein. The largest of the blocks weighed 75lb., gross, and 60 pounds of pure gold were taken from it. Unfortunately the blocks were broken up for greater convenience of transit. The whole mass of gold taken from the quartz weighed 106 pounds! It was promptly taken to Bathurst, and weighed in the town scales, in the midst of an assembled multitude of the townsfolk, and was afterwards deposited in the Union Bank of Australia there, and was subsequently seized by the Commissioner on the part of the Crown, as Dr. Kerr had taken out no licence, and a royalty of 10 per cent. was reserved on the gold in place. But as this was the first discovery of the kind, the government remitted its claims, and Dr. Kerr became the undisputed owner of the twenty thousand dollar prize!

The surrounding country was then diligently explored; the search was for some time unsuccessful; but at last another lump of gold, also embedded in its natural matrix of quartz, was dug out from the clay, about 25 yards from the spot where the former blocks were discovered. The weight of this lump was 336 ounces, and it was sold by public auction for \$5,775.

The next discovery of magnitude was at Araluen, 200 miles south of the Turon, and between 160 and 170 miles south of Sydney.

Other gold discoveries, and some very rich ones, have been since revealed in New South Wales.—(See Gold Regions,

p. 28.)—The richest, however, were put in the shade by the discoveries in the sister province.

THE PANIC IN VICTORIA.

In Victoria the settlers were groaning over the tidings from New South Wales. Their best hands had started for the gold fields, and, if this went on, what but ruin could be anticipated? To keep the people at home, a meeting was held at Melbourne, and \$1,000 proposed as the reward for the discovery of a gold field within 120 miles of the city of Melbourne; nor did they wait long before such discoveries were announced in the immediate neighborhood of Melbourne, but they proved of little consequence.

GOLD FOUND AT BALLARAT AND MOUNT ALEXANDER.

The discovery of the diggings at Ballarat was the first of any importance in Victoria, and the superior richness of this field soon attracted all adventurers. This discovery was made by a blacksmith named Hopkins, who resided in the neighborhood, and was announced in August, 1851. The regulations adopted in New South Wales were put in force by Governor Latrobe, but with far less effect, from the small resources at his disposal.

The Ballarat diggings are situate near the source of the river Lea, the richest being appropriately termed Golden Point. It was visited by Gov. Latrobe, who stated that it presents superficially no feature to distinguish it from any other of the numerous forested spurs which descend from the broken ranges at the foot of the higher ridges, and bound the valley on either side. Though gold is to be found in greater or less quantities in the whole of the surrounding country, this particular point has a superficial structure different from that of others.

The effect of this discovery was almost completely to empty Geelong and Melbourne, neither of the towns being distant above 60 miles. In a few weeks, however, the excitement cooled down; the product, though in some instances larger, seems to have been less regular than on the Turon and Ara-

luen, and numbers returned to their former employments. Up to the month of October the steady workers do not seem to have exceeded 3,000 ; but the discovery of the yet more productive diggings at Mount Alexander, about 40 miles N. of Ballarat, and 75 from Melbourne, raised the fever higher than ever.

The discovery was accidental. A shepherd found gold encased in a piece of quartz which he picked up on his folding ground. A careful examination showed gold in a seam of compact quartz of about a foot in thickness. A party followed up the seam, and in the course of a fortnight took from it, and from narrow layers of clay in the adjacent rock, gold to the amount of \$2,000. But here, as in so many other places, nature had beneficently spared man the labor of breaking up the rock, and spread out her richest treasures ready to his hand. In the bed of the Creek, descending from the Mount, and facing a junction with the East Loddon river, gold was found abundantly diffused in the gravelly soil. When these tidings were published, people flocked from not only every part of Victoria, but from Van Diemen's Land and South Australia, and even from the rich grounds of the Turon and Araluen. Seamen slipped from the ships in harbor, thriving shops and stores were shut up, and men left situations of trust to take their lot with the diggers. By December it was computed that 12,000 were assembled in an area of 15 square miles.

GOVERNOR LATROBE.

The Governor and Council of Victoria inconsiderately resolved to raise the license fee to 15 dollars per month. The diggers met to the number of several thousands, and resolved on resistance. The government was in no position to enforce its act, and had to draw back—thus affording evidence of its own weakness and the diggers' strength. Gov. Latrobe complained bitterly of the insignificant force at his disposal, and seemed seriously to apprehend some lawless and desperate outbreak from the hordes of adventurers thus suddenly drawn together. Gov. Latrobe, in fact, seems to have shared in the

excitement of the hour, and imagined that the world was about to be turned upside down. There is something strongly resembling exaggeration in the statement he furnishes of the distress of the government from the desertion of the clerks and officers. It is reported that his domestic servants left him *en masse*, and that he was reduced to the necessity of grooming his own horse, chopping his wood, lighting his fire and cooking his own breakfast!

The only departments which seem seriously to have suffered are those of the police and the harbor masters, but Governments, like private individuals, must expect to pay for labor what it is worth. These discoveries altered the state of society. Those on the lowest steps of the ladder suddenly found themselves on the top of it. Able-bodied men became the most valued members of the community; and it is not often that the rude labor of the nervous arm can assert equality with the skilled hand or trained head. Gov. Latrobe found it difficult to accommodate himself to the change; and there was some reason in the complaint of the Victorians, who found themselves destitute of efficient protection while a stream of gold, produced by their labor, was flooding the Treasury. The large sums returned by the licensing system could not have been turned to better account than by hiring labor at what it was worth to preserve order, to collect the government dues, and to form roads thro' districts suddenly thronged with traffic. A liberal policy would perhaps have been true economy, as from the insufficiency of the government staff, thousands of diggers evaded payment of the license fee, and thus set a bad example by showing how easily the official regulations might be evaded.

PANIC IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

At Adelaide the golden news had not only the effect of drawing away the bulk of the laboring population, but of draining the colony of money to purchase the gold, which offered by far the most profitable and certain investment that could be found. While Gov. Latrobe, (of Victoria,) feared that the

discovery would prove "anything but a blessing," and regarded with a troubled mind the efforts of "the disreputable or unthinking agitators of the day," and "the language and demeanor of many portions of the press," to whose comments he seems to have been needlessly sensitive; Gov. Young, (of South Australia,) deplored the stagnation of business and the absence of that stimulus which made Victoria so bustling. One required that "a regiment at least" should be stationed at Melbourne to preserve order; while the other offered a reward of £1,000 for the discovery of gold in South Australia, and made every preparation for thankfully receiving the bright stream. So eager was the expectation of the colonists, that some *clever* hands attempted to secure the reward by stratagem. They took the Commissioners to some creeks in Mount Lofty range, and washing the black alluvial soil produced from it four small pieces of gold. Altogether 14 grains were obtained. A government notice, stating the fact, was immediately issued, and the Deputy-Surveyor was immediately directed to proceed to the spot, and "cause plots of ground to be measured off," and licenses to be issued. But, for the prudence of the government, the notification contained a warning that the quantities of gold yet found did not exceed *two shillings in value*. A number of persons soon gathered, and commenced digging and washing with great eagerness; but neither by them nor by the careful researches of the Commissioners was a trace of gold found; and these last could come to no other conclusion than that the gold which had been produced in their presence "was not a natural deposit of the soil from which it was then taken."

GOLD DISCOVERED.

After a laborious search by various individuals and Government employees, the following announcement of the discovery of gold, about 20 miles south-east of Adelaide, appeared in the *South Australian Register* of August 25th, 1852:—

"There is now no doubt that at length an extensive and remunerative gold field has been discovered in this province. The

extent of country in which the gold occurs will probably be found to be very considerable. It commences at the sources of the Onkaparinga, near Mount Crawford and Mount Torrens, and reaches to the coast, following the line of that river to the township of Noarlunga, a tract of country not less than sixty miles in length. A government survey has been made, when two hundred persons at least were present, a large number of whom were returned diggers from Forest Creek and Bendigo; and the experiments were so successful that several of them declared their intention of remaining to work it instead of returning to Mount Alexander. Of the entire number of persons on the ground, not one, as far as I had the opportunity of ascertaining, went away with any other opinion than that a great available gold field had really been discovered."

The *Register* of the 27th continues: "This day, forty-five licences had been issued on the ground by Mr. Commissioner Bonney, although only a single cradle had made its appearance. The estimated number of persons on the gold field was between 400 and 500, and at least 200 persons were met on the road, carrying tin dishes and other implements or working tools. The gold is of a beautiful color, and in many instances the precious metal accompanied by pieces of quartz as transparent as crystal, and others which, though opaque, appear to have all the purity and delicacy of white cornelian. The official reports of the Colonial Secretary and Commissioner Bonney confirm the foregoing statements." The results at these diggings, as yet, do not seem to have realized the anticipations of the discoverers.

GOLD PRODUCE.

An estimate of the whole yield of gold from the first discoveries in Australia, as follows:

	<i>Ounces.</i>
Estimated total of the yield up to August.....	2,532,422
Conveyed by escort since then.....	1,332,636
" private hand.....	133,263

Estimated grand total yield up to 30th Dec. 1852. 3,988,321

We may say, in round numbers, 4,000,000 ounces, which, at 70s. per ounce, is £14,000,000 sterling; but its intrinsic value is certainly more, nearly £16,000,000 sterling; or \$80,000,000!

Statement of the gold production of the province of Victoria during the year 1852:—

	Ounces.	Value at £4 per Ounce.
The ascertained quality of gold dust brought into Melbourne and Geelong by the Government escort during the year 1852, was.....	1,339,845	£5,359,380
By the Victoria Escort Company.....	821,143	3,284,572
By private hands.....	601,688	2,406,592
By remittances to Adelaide per escort.	228,533	914,132
By remittances to Sydney per escort..	591,739	2,366,956
Do. to Van Dieman's Land per escort.	247,492	989,968
By shipments from Melbourne.....	1,886,217	7,544,868
By shipments from Geelong.....	84,020	336,080
By shipments from Portland.....	3,038	12,156
By shipments from Port Fairy.....	1,690	6,760
Making total shipments from province.	1,974,976	7,899,904
By amount remaining on hand on the 31st of December, 1852.....	787,660	3,150,646

LARGEST NUGGETS FOUND.

Dr. Kerr's Nugget, found at Louisa Creek.....	106 lbs.
Brennan's Do. " " "	28 "
Whitehorse, Do. " Bendigo.....	42 "
————— Do. " "	46 "
Victoria Do. " "	28 "

(This last nugget was purchased at public auction by the Corporation of Melbourne, and by that body presented to Queen Victoria.)

The largest nugget of all was picked up by four laborers at Ballarat, and weighed 134 lbs. 8 oz., valued at \$30,000! The *Sydney Herald* of the 10th of February, says the "nugget" "is one unbroken rounded mass, very slightly veined with quartz. The value of such a mass of gold is incalculable—for it is unique—the last and greatest wonder in the world."

PROVINCE OF WEST AUSTRALIA.

EXTENT.

This province comprises all that portion of Australia situate to the westward of the 129th degree of E. long., and extends between the parallels of 13 deg. 44 min. and 35 deg. S. It is bounded on the S. by the Pacific, on the W. N. W. by the Indian Ocean, on the N. by the Arafura Sea, and on E. by the meridian line above named. The length from north to south is 1,280 miles, and the breadth from east to west 800 miles. The superficial area is computed at one million square miles, being one-third of continental Australia. The settled portion of this vast province is very small, is confined to its south-west angle, and is divided into 26 counties.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.

The distinguishing feature of the colony is an elevated and unusually steep and rocky range, called the Darling Hills, which runs parallel with the west coast, at a distance of about 20 miles from it, and extends from near Point D'Entrecasteaux, at the south-west extremity of the province, away north for above 400 miles, with an average breadth of forty miles, and a height varying from 1,000 to 1,500 feet. Here are collateral spurs, which appear to form extensive parallel chains, and are probably connected with more elevated ranges in the unexplored interior of the north and north-east.

The Darling range, which presents the appearance of a mighty forest of magnificent timber, broken by a few valleys, separates the colony into two distinct districts, the plain of Quartania, situated between the hills and the sea coast, stretching from S. to N. for about 300 miles, with a breadth of 15 to 20 miles. This plain is well wooded, is in some places low, of a coralline structure, and full of estuaries, lakes, rivers and streamlets,

The district to the eastward of the Darling range commences on the south coast, at King George's Sound, and runs northerly for about 500 miles. It is highly picturesque, and the extent of arable land is considerable.

Western Australia has a greater variety of soils within a given space than the other Australian provinces, water is generally diffused, though the streams are small, and there is a total absence of droughts. The seasons are regular, and the climate fine, but warm.

The soil on the coast is extremely poor and barren. A few miles in the interior it greatly improves, exhibiting many beautiful and fertile tracts, and bearing some of the most magnificent trees in the world. Here, also, is the same profusion of flowers which form so beautiful a feature of the natural vegetable productions of Australia. The animals are entirely similar to those of the other colonies, and it is equally free from those that are dangerous to man.

PRINCIPAL SETTLEMENTS.

Perth, the principal village, and the seat of government, is situated about 11 miles from the sea coast, on the banks of the Melville water, which is the estuary of the Swan river. The village is regularly laid out, has excellent houses of brick and stone, with large verandahs and gardens around, numerous churches, stores, a government house, court-house, banks, hospital, magazine, hotels, inns, &c. The population is about 2,000. Perth is distant west from Sydney, in a direct line, 2,200 miles; 1,450 from Adelaide, and 1,950 from Melbourne.

Fremantle, the sea port of Perth, distant about 14 miles, lies immediately behind the little promontory of "Arthur's head." It is built entirely of white limestone. It contains Episcopal and Methodist churches, government store-house, hotels and substantial dwellings. In the winter season bay whaling is carried on. Population 1,500.

Albany is a small village, on the south-coast, on the harbor

of King George's Sound, inhabited by persons chiefly engaged in fishing. It is about 280 miles S. S. E. of Perth.

Australind is a seaport on Leschenault Inlet, 100 miles S. of Perth, and *York*, is a small village in the interior, 70 miles W. of Perth. The other villages are very scattered, and the homesteads are generally very distant from one another.

POPULATION, STOCK, TRADE, ETC.

The progress of this colony has been very slow. Its position, being from 1,500 to 2,000 nearer Europe, would lead us to surmise that its increase would have been much larger than the other Australian colonies, instead of being quite the reverse. Its population in 1837 amounted but to 1,847 persons; in 1843, 3,853; and in 1852, 14,006. Live stock, 1837, horses, 254; horned cattle, 837; sheep, 10,271; hogs, 970; 1843, horses, 1,202; horned cattle, 4,861; sheep, 76,191; hogs, 1,951; 1852, horses, 7,951; horned cattle, 48,760; sheep, 483,771, hogs, 5,132. Land in cultivation, 1837, 2,079 acres; 1848, 7,174 acres. Imports, 1836, £39,283; exports, £6,906; imports, 1848, £45,411; exports, £28,598. Wool exported, 1838, 36,450 lbs.; 1848, 301,965 lbs.

HISTORY, ETC.

The name "Swan River" was given to this portion of the Australian continent, by Vleming, the Dutch Navigator, who discovered it in 1697, and found in the neighborhood many black swans. In 1801, the French navigators, Bailly and Heirrisson, entered the River Swan, observed large flocks of black swans, pelicans, and parroquets, and were surprised with the forests and geological formations of the country.

In the year 1829, Captain Fremantle, of the British ship *Challenger*, hoisted the cross of St. George, near the entrance of Swan river, and took formal possession of the country on behalf of Great Britain.

In 1830, Captain Sterling, (upon whose recommendation the new colony was formed, to prevent the French from locating

the country,) was sent out Governor, and land was granted on certain conditions, which rendered its acquisition dependent on a stated time. This induced many emigrants to bring out servants, live stock, machinery, &c., more than were required. The season selected for their arrival was the month of June (midwinter). Through the inclemency of the weather on the arrival of the colonists, many of the vessels were wrecked and a large proportion of their property and stock was lost or destroyed. The beach was crowded with masses of human beings, while the stock, agricultural implements, machinery, furniture, &c., lay heaped together drenched with sea-water and torrents of rain. In fine, above a million dollars' worth of property was destroyed; the means of the immigrants dissipated: many died; and numbers, as soon as practicable, fled from the scene of ruin, carrying with them the wreck of their fortunes.

The ill success attending the first settlement, and the land disputes that followed, completely put a stop to the progress of the colony, and for several years it showed little signs of vitality. It is now, however, beginning to look up; and the Home Government having now no other Australian colony to which they can transport their convicts, are giving Western Australia the benefit of their labor and services, by employing them as pioneers in opening and making roads, constructing bridges, &c., for the use of free settlers.

We will now bid farewell to continental Australia, and take a sail across Bass's Straits to the island of Van Diemen's Land.

ISLAND OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND OR TASMANIA.

EXTENT.

This island is situated at the southern extremity of Australia, from which it is separated by Bass' Straits. It lies between 40 degrees 45 minutes and 43 deg. 40 min. S. latitude, and 144 deg. 45 min. and 148 deg. 30 min. E. longitude of Greenwich. In shape it somewhat resembles a heart. Its length, north and south, is 210 miles; its breadth, east and west, 180 miles. Superficial area, with its dependent islets, 27,000 square miles. The settled portion of the island is divided into eleven counties.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The appearance of the island from the sea is highly picturesque, presenting an endless succession of lofty mountains, covered to their summits with wood; while tall rocks and precipices, glens and hills, contribute to increase the beauty of the landscape. The southern, eastern, and western coasts are generally high and rocky. The northern shores present a line of low sandy beaches, broken by rocky headlands. There are numerous large and excellent harbors, bays and ports distributed all around the island. The principal rivers are the Derwent and the Tamar. Besides these, there are a multitude of smaller rivers, lakes, and streams. The mountain ranges and isolated eminences are of considerable elevation. The loftiest are Mount Humboldt, 5520 feet; Ben Lomond, 5002; Cradle Mountain, 4700; Dry's Bluff, 4590; and Mount Wellington, 4195.

PRINCIPAL CITIES AND SETTLEMENTS.

Hobart Town or *Hobarton*, the chief city, stands on the left bank of the Derwent river, about 20 miles above its junction with the sea. It is built on gently rising ground, backed by an amphitheatre of well-wooded and lofty hills, having Mount Wellington as the highest, on the west; while the estuary of the Derwent, with its shipping and picturesque points of land, skirts it on the east. The streets of Hobarton are wide and long, in-

tersecting each other at right angles, well paved, and present long rows of handsome stores, shops and houses built of white freestone. The public buildings are handsome structures, and consist of the government and court houses, Episcopal and Catholic cathedrals, churches, schools, hospitals, banks, hotels, &c. Through the middle of the city runs a creek, which, besides turning numerous mills, affords the inhabitants a good supply of water, chiefly by means of pipes laid on to the houses. Population of the city 24,000. In the immediate vicinity numerous handsome villas have been erected.

Launceston, the principal town in the north of the island, is situated at the junction of the North Esk and South Esk rivers, at the head of the navigable portion of the Tamar, which discharges itself into Bass' Straits, 45 miles below the town. The houses and buildings of Launceston are mostly well built of brick. Its streets are spacious, and laid out at right angles. There are numerous churches, two of which (a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian) are fine structures. The exchange, reading rooms and the literary societies are equal to any thing of the kind in the old world. Indeed, the business-like appearance of the place, its shipping, wharves and stores, show that its citizens are well aware of its importance as the maritime key to a large and fertile country. The population of Launceston is 16,000. It is distant 124 miles N. of Hobarton. Any one visiting the farms in the country around Launceston will cease to wonder at the great shipments of grain from that port, or that the district should be called the "Granary of Australia."

Among the many flourishing villages in the island are, New Norfolk or Elizabethtown, Georgetown, Richmond, Brighton, Lincoln, Sorrel, Oatlands, Swansea, Campbelltown, Longford, Ramsgate, Bothwell and Ross. The last-named village has an annual cattle fair, the largest in Australia.

NATURAL HISTORY, ETC.

The animals are the same as in continental Australia. The dingo is not found here, but there is another great enemy to

the settler's flocks, a kind of panther. The native cat is handsome but very ferocious. The seas abound in whales, dolphins and seals, and the shores with mussels, oysters, and fish of various kinds.

The island possesses a great variety of trees and shrubs. There are many adapted for house and ship building. The trees are nearly all evergreens. All the fruits and vegetables of Britain and North America thrive well here.

Among the mineral productions are iron, stone, lead, zinc, manganese. Coal exists in various places in the island. Gold is reported to have been found at Fingal, in Cornwall county.

The climate is salubrious, much cooler than Victoria, and not subject to extremes, and the atmosphere is pure.

RELIGION, EDUCATION, POPULATION, SOCIETY.

The laws and regulations respecting religion and education are the same as in New South Wales and Victoria. The Episcopal and Catholic Churches have each their Bishops.

The population of the island in 1821 was 7,108; 1832, 24,086; 1840, 53,812; 1852, 103,250, of which number about 20,000 are convicts.

Society is much the same in this island as it was in New South Wales, being divided into free settlers, emancipists and convicts.

CONVICTS.

The transportation of convicts to this island has of late years been a bone of contention between the colonists and the home government, and has occasioned very hard feelings between the parties. To such a height have these feelings been carried, that the Legislative Assembly has even stopped voting the supplies till such time as transportation should cease. Indeed so violent were many members of that body, that they proposed offering armed resistance to any attempt at its continuance. Mount Wellington was to be another Bunker Hill, and the "five-starred banner of Australia,"—the standard of independence, was to be raised on its summit.

But times have altered, the diggings have been discovered—labor has got very scarce—and selfishness gets the upper hand of patriotism! A ship laden with convicts anchors in the harbor of Hobarton. Where now are the patriot leaders and the patriot bands? Are they raising the standard of Australian independence, and lighting up their watch-fires on the snow-capt peak of Mount Wellington? No! Among the first to rush up the ship-side—to cast lots for a share in this cargo of corrupt humanity—is the mover of the resolution in the Legislature, T. G. Gregson, the *honorable* member for Richmond, who now rejoices that he drew a prize in the lottery, that convict labor is better than no labor at all, and he is sorry he had been “too precipitate” in his movements in the Legislature!

Convict transportation, however, has not been without its defenders, and one amongst the number is Mrs. C. Meredith, the wife of a wealthy and respectable farmer, who takes up the gauntlet in its defence with all the chivalry of Mrs. J. G. Tyler, and whose statements in favor of this “peculiar domestic institution” have, in conjunction with the recent conduct of its opponents, much modified our preconceived notions on the subject. We shall, therefore, give that lady’s story in her own words:

“I have lived about nine years in the colony, the wife of a settler, and during that time we have been served by prisoners of all grades, as ploughmen, shearers, reapers, butchers, gardeners, carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, shoemakers, housemaids, &c., &c., and (with one or two exceptions) served as well and faithfully as we could desire. What more could be said by any farmer’s wife at home? Are the English laborers blameless? I can only call to mind one instance of known dishonesty among our many men-servants, (that of a groom who stole some wine,) and I believe the acts of petty theft are far less common among them than among the generality of servants at home. Many persons here could and would, if required, give the same evidence which I now do; but I prefer adducing a few facts from my own knowledge, as a proof that transportation to these colonies *is*—always excepting the probation system—productive of reformation to many who otherwise would, in all probability, have been utterly lost. Five, ten, and

fifteen years are common periods for prison servants to remain in the same service, before and after their conditional pardon ; and I lately heard of one who has for twenty-eight years lived with another master in a situation of great trust. My husband's father, Mr. George Meredith, and himself, have now on their estates five old servants, four of whom have been in their family since 1826, and one since 1825, the latter being until lately overseer on a large agricultural farm. One of our four beforenamed was once an overseer for many years, and now rents a farm and flock from my husband—his wife having joined him eighteen or twenty years ago, with their family now grown up and married ; the second was in like manner gradually promoted from one post to another till he married, became a superintendent, and then a tenant ; the third, a good workman in an useful trade, has received a free pardon, is now also a tenant of my father's, and working for himself ; and the fourth having been employed, since he became free, in whaling, sawing, splitting, and divers other occupations, has, for the last eight years been cook and "major domo" in our own house, where his faithful attachment and incorruptible honesty are appreciated as they deserve. At the very time I am writing, he and a 'ticket-of-leave' gardener are the only persons in our lonely house, (Mr. Meredith being absent in Hobarton,) and I feel no more, perhaps even less, fear of attack or molestation, than I should in the middle of London : firstly, because I have no idea that robbers will come ; and secondly, because I know that, if they did, I and my children would be defended to the utmost by these very prisoner-servants ; and I think it must be very evident that the country cannot be the den of horrors it has of late been painted, where a female only so protected can sit in her quiet country house, forty miles from the nearest village, with doors and windows left open the whole day through, and sleep safely and peaceably at night, without a bar or bolt or shutter to a single window, every room being on the ground floor. I have only particularized a few instances of long services, but I could enumerate numbers of men who have lived in the same family ten, fifteen, and eighteen years, as trusted and respected servants ; some who have grown old and died on the same establishment. Surely such distinct and indisputable facts as these are more worthy of credence, and a safer guide to the truth than the vague, generalising denunciations now so commonly set forth by the slanderers of the colony. If I were to note all the corroborative evidence that occurs to me, I should

fill my little book with it; in no places that I ever knew at home are houses and families left so totally unprotected and in such perfect safety as here. In a lone cottage, seven miles from our own, there lives, at this very time, a lady, an educated gentlewoman, and her four young children—the eldest only eleven—without even a man-servant in or near the place, all being with their master on a distant farm; all the neighboring settlers have numerous prisoner servants, yet she lives undisturbed.”

A change has taken place in the home government, and a new ministry has been appointed. One of its earliest acts was to notify the colonists that transportation of convicts should cease and for ever.

GOVERNMENT, HISTORY, ETC.

The government of the island is vested in a Lieut.-Gov. and Executive and Legislative Councils, same as Victoria.

This island was discovered by Tasman, the Dutch navigator, who visited it in 1642, and named it Van Diemen, after the Gov. of the Dutch settlements in the East Indies. Tasman considered it to be the southern portion of New Holland, (now Australia.) It was not known to be a separate island till 1798, when Lieut. Bass passed through the straits which divide the island from the main land.

Formal possession was taken of Van Diemen's Land in 1802, in the name of Great Britain, by Lieut. Bowen, who was despatched from Sydney for the purpose of forming a penal settlement for convicts. The next year Gov. Collins removed the settlement from Risdon Cove, on the left bank of the River Derwent, to a position which was four miles nearer the sea, and contiguous to a commodious harbor. On this spot now stands the flourishing city of Hobarton. In 1813 merchant vessels were allowed to trade to the island; in 1819 free immigrants were allowed to settle; and in 1825 the island was separated from New South Wales and formed into a distinct government.

ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND OR MAORIA.

EXTENT, ETC.

This extensive and beautiful group of Islands is situated in the South Pacific Ocean, between 34 deg. and 48 deg. S. lat. and 166 deg. and 179 deg. E. long., and about 1,200 miles S. E. of Australia; 5,000 miles from the west coast of South America, and 16,000 from England, of which these islands form the Antipodes. From Cape Van Diemen, the most northerly point of the north island to South Cape in the south island is 900 miles, with an average breadth of about 130 miles. The superficial area is estimated at 122,000 square miles. The group is composed of three large islands—north, south and middle—and several small ones.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.

A chain of lofty mountains, of which some peaks rise 12,000 to 14,000 feet above the level of the sea, extends along the Middle Island, and is continued to some extent through the Northern Island, forming what is termed the "back bone" of the country, in connection with numerous subordinate ranges of hills. The whole range is covered for the greater part, to the verge of perpetual snow, with lofty timber and vegetation, intersected by streams and cascades. There are numerous rivers and streams throughout the country, which have their origin in these mountains. Many of the rivers are navigable to a considerable extent, and possess falls which afford the means of establishing mills in most parts of the country.

New Zealand is of volcanic origin, there being many extinct and several active volcanoes in the interior of the islands. Mount Egmont or Taranaki forms an immense volcanic cone, 9000 feet above the sea. Fossil remains of gigantic birds; the bones of some have been found, which must have been 16 feet high, devoid of wings.

ISLANDS, PROVINCES, SETTLEMENTS.

The North Island, called New Ulster, contains 48,000 square miles, and comprises the provinces of Auckland, New Plymouth and Wellington. Cook's straits separate the north and middle islands. The middle island called New Munster, contains 70,000 square miles, and comprises the provinces of Nelson, Canterbury and Otago. Foveaux Straits separate the middle and southern islands. The southern island, called New Leinster, or Stewart's Island, contains 2,000 square miles, and has on it at present but a few fishing establishments.

Auckland comprises the northern section of the north island, and scarcely exceeds 50 miles in width. It has within it the city of *Auckland*, the seat of government, which is a fast improving place, containing 6,000 inhabitants. The Episcopal Church is a fine edifice. The houses and stores are well built. *Karorarika*, the oldest British trading and Missionary settlement, is 90 miles north of Auckland. The government was first established here, but afterwards removed to Auckland. *Russell* is a township on the Bay of Islands, which has an entrance 11 miles broad, without a bar. Inside are many rocky islets; the water is deep and the anchorage excellent. It has long been a favorite resort for whale ships. Gold has been found in small quantities in this province at Wynyard's diggings, Coromandel harbor. The population is 58,000, of whom 40,000 are natives.

New Plymouth province lies south of Auckland, and from the fertility of its soil and the beauty of its climate, it is justly called the "Garden of New Zealand." Rev. Mr. Yates, a Missionary, speaking of this province, says, "here the sickly become healthy, the healthy become robust, and the robust fat." *New Plymouth* or Taranaki is a beautiful village, increasing rapidly, and is surrounded by a thickly settled farming country. Mount Egmont is 16 miles south of the village. 150 miles S. of Auckland. Population of the province 40,000, of whom 30,000 are natives.

Wellington province is the southern portion of the northern island. This is very mountainous and hilly, and densely timbered. Coal has been discovered in great profusion at Paka-wau, and a company is formed to work it. *Wellington*, the chief town, a place of considerable business, is situate on Port Nicholson, near Cook's Straits. The harbor is 12 miles long by 3 broad, and is subject to violent hurricanes. *Wellington* is 300 miles S. of Auckland. Population 40,000, of whom 25,000 are natives.

Nelson province comprises the northern section of the middle island on the opposite side of Cook's Straits to *Wellington*. This is a good agricultural district, and is fast rising in wealth and population. *Nelson* village is situate on Admiralty Bay, a deep inlet of Cook's Strait, extending inwardly about 40 miles. Number of whites 14,000, natives 19,000. Copper has been discovered at Dun Mountain, near *Nelson* village.

Canterbury province comprises the centre of the middle island. This section contains large tracts of rich, level land. Grass, knee deep, abounds on the plains. The soil is deep and of excellent quality. In the western part of the province is a mountain range covered with snow. This district was settled by a body of Episcopalians, under the auspices of the "Canterbury Association." The principal villages are Christ Church and Lyttleton. The Editor of the *Australian*, (a Sydney paper,) who visited these parts a few months ago, thus writes of the Canterbury people:—"They look upon us Australians as half convict, half savage! At the same time, I must own, I never saw a better dressed mob, or heard so much good music and speechifying in the same number of persons on our side the water. For printing and public meetings it is a Lilliput London, and for gentility, divisions, subdivisions and exclusives, it bangs 'the city of palaces,' Bath." The French settlers who intended to occupy New Zealand for the French government, settled at Akaroa, in this province, and have become British subjects. Population, whites 10,000, natives 5,000.

Otago, the most southern province, possesses a great deal of available land, and much resembles Canterbury in its general capabilities. The principal place is Dunedin, which is laid out at the head of Otago harbor. The settlers here are chiefly Scotch, belonging to the Free Presbyterian Church, and the educational and religious institutions are in unison with it. Dunedin is 700 miles south of Auckland. Population, whites 8,000, natives 4,000.

NATURAL HISTORY.

The forest trees grow to a very large size, and much of their timber is used for ship-building. Flax is also an important production. The vegetables and fruits of Europe flourish. Seeds which were sown by Capt. Cook have propagated themselves over the country.

There are no native quadrupeds in New Zealand. Those at present existing are from the stock left by Capt. Cook, or have been introduced by the missionaries and settlers. Pigs are very numerous, having spread rapidly over the country. Cattle and sheep thrive well. Dogs and cats abound.

Among the feathered tribes may be found ducks, geese, curlews, woodcocks, wood pigeons, and a variety of singing birds.

Fish are abundant all around the coast. The most plentiful are soles, mackerel, codfish, salmon, oysters, &c. Whales and seals are caught in the neighboring seas.

RELIGION.

The white population possess ministers and places of worship according to their different denominations. There are Christian Missions employed in the conversion of the Aborigines. A despatch of Gov. Sir George Grey, dated July, 1849, has the following: "The natives have almost, as an entire race embraced Christianity, and have abandoned the most revolting of their heathen customs."

TRADE, REVENUE, POPULATION.

The total value of imports in 1847 into the islands was £202,355, and the exports, £48,485. Exports, 1850, £115,.

451. Revenue, 1849, £48,589; 1850, £57,743. The population is estimated at 190,000, of whom about 115,000 are natives.

ABORIGINES, MISSIONARIES.

The natives of New Zealand are a fine race of people, with olive complexions, and were formerly savage and ferocious. All enemies taken in war were either devoured at their feasts or offered up at their shrines to appease the rage of their gods. And numerous instances are on record where vessels trading to or wrecked upon their shores, have been seized upon and the officers and crews carried ashore, killed, roasted, and devoured by the natives. Such was the case when the first Missionary of Christ set his foot on their shores. How different now—

“ — The heathen once adoring,
 Idol gods of wood and stone,
 Come, and, worshipping before him
 Serve the living God alone.”

The missionary—the visionary of the man of the world—has brought the most degraded people from out of darkness to marvellous light; he has taught them the truth as it is in Jesus; he has abolished their sanguinary wars, their cannibal feasts, their human sacrifices—and he has rendered the “tabooed” places of the wild man the tabernacles of the one living and true God—thereby proving the truth of the words of the Apostle: “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.” Here is the picture of a missionary establishment, by Mr. Darwin, the naturalist, of the British ship *Beagle*: “Fields of corn, wheat, potatoes and clover were seen growing, and large gardens with every fruit and vegetable that England produces. The water of a small stream on the grounds had been collected into a pool and a flour mill erected. The house has been built, the windows framed, the fields plowed, and even the trees grafted by the New Zealander. At the mill a native may be seen powdered white with flour, conducting its operations.” The

Bible has been translated into the Maori, and there are now several newspapers printed in that language.

GOVERNMENT, HISTORY, ETC.

The Government of the islands is vested in a Governor and Parliament, composed of two chambers. The six provinces have each a Legislature and Superintendent for their own internal management. The Colonial Charter enacts: "that there shall be no difference between natives and Europeans in regard to the exercise of the franchise, but that whenever a native shall be residing within the limits of a province, and shall be possessed of the required qualification, he shall be looked upon as a British subject, and possess equal rights and privileges with his European neighbors."

These islands were visited by the Dutch navigator Tasman, in 1642, who supposed the country was part of a great southern continent. Little further was known until Captain Cook, in 1769-70 visited the east coast of the northern island. After this period the islands were visited by whaling ships, and became a refuge for runaway convicts from Australia. In 1814 Christian Missionaries began to visit New Zealand, with a view to the conversion and civilization of the natives. In 1825 an attempt was made to colonize New Zealand, under the auspices of the Earl of Durham, but failed. In 1839 a company, which started in London, called the New Zealand Company, commenced a systematic effort for the occupation of the Islands, (without the consent of the British Government,) and sent an expedition and a large number of emigrants out for that purpose, under Colonel Wakefield. The following year, however, the British Government took formal possession of the islands, and they now are integral portions of the British Empire.

APPENDIX.

MISCELLANY.

The following interesting information is from the last arrivals
NEW SOUTH WALES.

On account of the great dearth of labor, there was a great demand for thrashing machines and all machinery for agricultural purposes.

VICTORIA.

Shipping inwards, 1851, vessels 669, tonnage 126,000 ; 1852, vessels 1657, tonnage 408,000. Imports, 1852, £4,044,000, exports £7,452,000. The customs' returns gave 1,970,000 ounces of gold as the quantity exported for 1852, but an additional 1,600,000 ounces has been traced into the adjoining provinces. A careful estimate gave the value of exports raised in Victoria in 1852 at no less than £15,000,000 sterling.

Two more large nuggets have been found in Canadian gully, Ballarat : the biggest weighed 93 lbs. 2 oz., the other 83 lbs. 9 oz.

Astonishing quantities of gold are daily obtained by the 120,000 diggers working at Ballarat, Mount Alexander and the other fields of this golden province. The price of the precious metal had advanced to 76s. sterling per ounce. Up to the beginning of March the exportations had aggregated more than nineteen tons of pure gold.

Coal, in unlimited quantities, had been discovered a few miles distant in the interior from Portland, and in the immediate neighborhood of the town.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Imports, 1851, £395,000 ; 1852, £278,000. Exports, 1851, £378,000 ; 1852, £730,000.

Great and joyous excitement was caused by the circumstance of the first steamer starting on the Murray, on her first voyage up that splendid stream, which is navigable for one thousand miles, connecting the territories of South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. A second ship was building for the same service. The arrival of emigrants from England and elsewhere had induced the Burra Burra Mining Company to notify their intention to resume those important operations in the deeper levels, which the late gold mining fever compelled them to suspend last year.

ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS.

Our advice, of course, is not intended for that class of persons who are "clothed in purple and fine linen and fare sumptuously every day," and who, when they take a voyage, loll about at their ease in carpeted cabins and saloons; but for a more numerous and far more useful class who may have to make a trip in not quite so luxurious a style.

It is necessary that all passengers should bestow some little time and attention in fitting up their berths: it will add much to their comfort on the voyage. Packages would cost them little, if they were to get them made as under:—a chest of drawers, made to fit on the top of another, of strong wood, iron or brass bound; but if they are well dove-tailed together, it is not absolutely necessary; they should be three ft. long, two ft. deep, and two feet wide; two drawers in each, with handles sunk in the face, a good strong pair of handles on either side, and two iron holdfasts to go up face of drawers, with hinges to screw into the deck, and two into the bulk-head of ship, and to meet at top edge, and there to lock with padlocks; they would, at the end of the voyage, make very useful pieces of furniture, and easily be moved, and, moreover, could be placed one on the top of another, so need never have boxes to move, as the drawers would draw out and never be in the way; at the top should be a small safe, exactly the same size as the boxes, with folding doors and shelves, with places to fix your plates, tea cups and crockery, to save them from breakage. The drawers might be piled one above another to top of the space 'tween decks and have more room below in consequence. Or, a chest of drawers might be had cased in pine, with the front open, so as to use the drawers, some shelves with ledge in front, a few tools, nails, hooks, &c.; and be content with the ship's lumber, and a good horsehair mattress, and a shelf with a hole in it to drop the wash basin in. Be sure to take a good filter. If the season will permit, take plenty of good apples, well packed, preserves, dried fruits, acidulated drops and seidlitz powders, but these two last must be in well stoppered bottles; some good chocolate and cocoa paste, ready prepared with milk; also all kinds of pickles, they vary the salt provisions, and promote good health. Potatoes are a luxury. A hamper or two of soda-water would be good in the tropics. A portable lamp in a shade, with a small kettle on the top, will be found handy to heat water, for a cup of tea, &c.

Passengers will find the necessity of providing themselves with light as well as very warm clothing, as there are no fires on board, save those used for cooking. In the tropics the clothing used will be necessarily very light; but after passing Cape of Good Hope, the necessity of pea jackets or pilot cloth coats and trowsers for wear, and blankets, &c., for your bedding, will be found very necessary and will add much to your comfort. Some persons take two or three pairs of linen sheets, which are very useful in warm weather. In cold or wet, damp weather, lie in your blankets; in such weather all the sheets on board get damp from the sea air, and are uncomfortable.

Boots and shoes not intended for use on the voyage should be well dried or greased lightly, and packed in a small package by themselves, as the leather is apt to give and get mouldy.

Keep but a few changes of clothes out, or they will be spoiled, because they must be washed as they get soiled, and sea washing is very rough work. Have some fresh water soap on hand, for there is a chance of getting rain water sometimes, and have a few bars of salt water soap as well.

In bringing articles to hold water, if there are many persons in a party, take two six-gallon and two two-gallon stone jugs, or as many as may seem fit. They are much better than tin, which gets rusty. Any potter who supplies the wine-merchants would make them to order; and have them basketed and a tap-hole put into them, into which a cork can be put, and a hole through the cork admits the tap. The mouth should be large, to admit the arm, so that they may be easily cleaned. The shape should be large at the bottom and low. The more upright the sides are the better, as no room should be lost; and every thing must be made so as to make the most of space.

It will be beneficial to health, to take, in fine weather, the beds and bed clothing upon deck, to be exposed to the wind and sun. This should be done once or twice a week.

On all well-regulated passenger ships, if there be a minister on board, it is usual to have divine service performed on Sundays on the deck of the vessel. If there be no minister on board, prayers are generally read by the captain, surgeon, or one of the passengers.

The best time of the year to sail to Australia is in the month of October.

THE GOLD REGULATIONS.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney,
March 29th, 1852.

His Excellency, the Governor-General, has been pleased, with the advice of the Executive Council, to direct that the following consolidated and amended code of regulations for the management of the gold fields be published for general information.

I. ALLUVIAL GOLD.

1. CROWN LAND LICENSES.

1. No person will be permitted to dig, search for, or remove gold on or from any land, public or private, without taking out a license in the form annexed. All gold procured without due authority shall be seized as the property of the crown, in whose possession soever it may be.

2. The license fee for crown (unsold lands) has been fixed at thirty shillings sterling per month, to be paid in advance. These licenses only extend to the extraction of alluvial gold, matrix gold being the subject of other regulations, which will be found in a subsequent part of the present code.

3. Licenses can be obtained on the gold field from the commissioner, or assistant commissioner, appointed by his Excellency to carry the regulations into effect, and who is authorized to receive the fee payable thereon.

4. No person will be eligible to obtain a license, or the renewal of a license, unless he shall produce a certificate of discharge from his last service, or show, to the satisfaction of the commissioner or assistant commissioner, that he is not a person improperly absent from hired service.

5. Persons desirous of establishing claims to new and unoccupied ground by working in the ordinary method for alluvial gold, may have their claims marked out on the following scale to each person: 1. Fifteen feet frontage to either side of a river or main creek. 2. Twenty feet of the bed of a tributary to a river or main creek extending across its whole breadth. 3. Sixty feet of the bed of a ravine or water-course. 4. Twenty feet square of table land or river flats.

6. These claims will be secured to the parties for such time only as they continue to hold licenses for the same; unless in case of flood or other such unavoidable accident as shall, in the opinion of the commissioner or assistant commissioner, render a suspension of the work inevitable.

7. The above licenses may be cancelled and the claims forfeited in consequence of the conviction of the holders, in any court of competent jurisdiction, of the illicit sale of spirits, or of any disorderly or riotous conduct endangering the public morals or peace.

8. Persons found working alluvial gold on any land, public or private, without having previously paid the license fee to the proper officer, shall pay double the amount for such license; and, in default, be proceeded against in the usual manner.

9. If any dispute shall arise in respect to any claim, reference should be forthwith made by the complainant to the commissioner or assistant commissioner of the district, who will lose no time in hearing and summarily determining the case on the spot, according to the evidence ad-

duced on either side, giving due notice, of course, to the party complained of. If necessary, he will take the proper measures for placing and maintaining the successful party in possession of the claim.

2. PRIVATE LAND LICENSES.

With respect to lands alienated by the crown in fee simple, the commissioner will not be authorized to issue licenses under these regulations to any persons but the proprietors, or persons authorized by them in writing to apply for the same. The license fee for such lands will be one-half only of that payable to crown lands. Persons holding the same and working on crown lands without licenses applicable thereto, will be liable to the payment of a double fee.

3. WATER HOLES.

1. Persons desirous of draining ponds or water holes for the purpose of obtaining alluvial gold, may make application in writing to the commissioner or assistant commissioner of the district, describing accurately the locality. Such applications shall be decided by priority, and shall be immediately recorded by such officer in a book to be kept by him for that purpose, which shall be open at all reasonable times for the inspection of applicants. If there should be no valid objection to the application from interference with alluvial digging or other sufficient cause, the right to drain the water hole will be conceded to the applicant on payment of such number of licenses as shall be proportioned to the area of the water hole, calculated at the rate of twenty-five feet square for every license. A claim for emptying a water hole will be deemed to extend twelve feet from the bank, defining the boundary of such water hole, together with sufficient space for the erection of machinery, and for other necessary purposes, to be determined by the commissioner or assistant commissioner of the district.

2. The commissioner or assistant commissioner is empowered to make such temporary regulations as may be necessary to prevent inconvenience to other licensed persons from the carrying on of operations of the above nature.

4. RESERVOIRS FOR WASHING GOLD.

1. Persons desirous of constructing reservoirs or dams on the gold fields for the purpose of washing gold should make application to the local assistant commissioner, who will, if the same should appear to him unobjectionable, grant the requisite permission.

2. The reservoirs or dams shall be reserved for the exclusive use of the applicants, in all cases in which such reservation will not, in the opinion of the assistant commissioners, be detrimental to the public interests.

5. EMPLOYERS OF LICENSED LABORERS.

1. The owners of all claims, who may employ men on hire to assist them in working alluvial gold, and who may take out licenses for them, will be entitled, on application to the commissioner or assistant commissioner of the district, to have the licenses of such men transferred to other laborers, in the event of their quitting their service or ceasing to work for them. The licenses must in every case be produced to the commissioner or assistant commissioner, who will endorse thereon, without any additional fee, the name of the transferee.

II. MATRIX GOLD.

1. CROWN LAND.

1. Persons desirous of working auriferous quartz veins, may make application in writing to the commissioner or assistant commissioner of the gold district, accurately describing the locality. Such application shall be immediately recorded by such officer in a book to be kept by him for that purpose, which shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of applicants. In case no previous application shall have been made in the manner above described, and should there be no valid objection to the proposal from interference with alluvial digging or any other sufficient cause, the commissioner, on the same being approved of by the government, shall notify to the applicant his acceptance of the same. The applicant shall then enter into a bond binding himself and his partners, should the government be satisfied with the sufficiency of the parties jointly and severally in the sum of £1000, to pay a royalty of 10 per cent. on all gold obtained, to an officer to be appointed for that purpose by the government. If the government be not satisfied with the sufficiency of the applicant, then two or more solvent and responsible parties must be named. He shall further be bound to permit such officer to reside on the land in the neighborhood of the works, at such spot as may be assigned by the commissioner, and also to give such officer access at all reasonable times to the buildings or premises, and to all books and accounts connected with the production of gold; also to give all necessary facilities for the collection of the royalty daily or weekly, as may be found most desirable.

2. All buildings, machinery, or other improvements erected or made on the land, shall be considered as additional security for the due performance of the conditions of the bond.

3. The claim shall consist of half a mile of, and in the course of the vein, with a quarter of a mile reserved on each side of such vein for building and other purposes necessary for carrying on the operations. The right of culling or using timber for building or for firewood from adjacent crown lands, as well as access to neighboring water, shall also be conceded where the public convenience shall not suffer thereby. The commissioner or assistant commissioner shall be empowered to grant the exclusive right to necessary water, whether in the half-square mile enclosing the vein, or in the immediate neighborhood.

4. The beds of rivers or main creeks intersected by veins included in such claims are not excluded from license to the public generally, except for a distance of fifty yards on each side of such veins. But with this exception no licenses shall be given to the public to dig for alluvial gold on such claims. The holders of the claims, however, who may desire to work alluvial gold, must take out licenses on payment of the usual fee of thirty shillings monthly for such number of persons as they may employ for this purpose.

5. A claim such as the above shall be forfeited by the failure of the applicant to enter within a reasonable period, to be notified to him by the commissioner in writing, into the required bond; by his not employing at least twenty persons, or machinery equivalent, calculated at the rate of one-horse power to seven men, on such claim, within six months of the acceptance of his application for the same, unless such time shall be specially extended by the government—by his ceasing to employ that num-

ber of persons, or such machinery, on the works thereafter—by his employing unlicensed persons to work alluvial gold on the claim—by obstructing the officer in the proper performance of his duty, or in any other way violating the terms of the bond. Such veins shall then be open to selection by other parties.

6. The duration of the claim shall be three years, which, however, shall be extended for such further period as, upon receipt of instructions from government, may be determined upon, having due regard to the interests of the parties concerned. At the expiration of the term of their holding, or on the sooner determination of the tenure by the consent of government, the parties shall have liberty to remove all buildings, machinery, or other improvements erected or made by them, and a reasonable time shall be given for that purpose, provided always that the conditions of the bond shall have been duly fulfilled.

7. No portion of land, previously occupied under claims for alluvial gold, will be open to selection for matrix gold, while it continues to be worked for the former.

2. PRIVATE LANDS.

Persons desirous of working auriferous quartz veins on private lands, shall be subject to the terms of the above regulations, with the exception that the royalty payable on the gross product of the gold shall be five per cent., and that they shall not be compelled to employ any specified number of persons, nor be liable to any penalty, on their ceasing to work.

3. TRADERS' LICENSES.

Persons occupying portions of the gold field, by erecting temporary buildings, tents, &c., and carrying on business, or following any trade or calling, shall pay a fee thirty shillings monthly, for the use of the land so occupied by them; and they are required to pay the same on demand, and in advance, to the officer appointed to receive payment of license fees. Such license may be cancelled at any time, should the land be required for any public purpose, or in consequence of the conviction of the licensed occupant, in any court of competent jurisdiction, of the illicit sale of spirits, or of any disorderly or riotous conduct endangering the public morals or peace; and in no case shall any claim to compensation for improvements be recognized.

4. LAND HELD UNDER PASTORAL LEASES.

Inconvenience being felt from the occupancy under lease in terms of the regulations of the 29th May, 1848, of such portions of the crown lands as are now being worked under licenses for digging gold, it has become necessary to terminate the leases in all such cases as shall be reported by the commissioner or assistant commissioner to be desirable for securing to the licensed miners the undisturbed prosecution of their employment. On the receiving of such reports, the necessary notice shall be given to the lessees by the proper officer of the termination of their leases after one month; and the sum paid by such lessees for the land resumed or the proportion payable for the remainder of the term, will be refunded, as provided in the regulation referred to. In acting on this regulation, no greater interference with the interests of the lessees will be sanctioned than may be absolutely necessary to insure the object contemplated.



AUSTRALIAN TARIFF.

(From the Republic.)

Department of State, Nov. 15, 1852.

The annexed extract from a dispatch received this day from J. H. Williams, Esq., dated August 13th, relating to a new Tariff passed by the Legislative Council at Sydney, New South Wales, is published for general information :

"I have the pleasure of inclosing herewith a copy of the new Tariff passed by the Legislative Council.

"You will perceive that articles likely to be imported into this colony from the United States, with the single exception of Tobacco, are free; upon Tobacco the duty, both of leaf and manufactured, has been reduced 6l. per pound, and is to be still further reduced after December, 1853."

THE NEW TARIFF.

The following are the duties leviable under the new Customs' Act, which came into force on Thursday morning :

	s.	d.
Ale, porter, and beer of all sorts, in wood, per gallon	0	1
Ale, porter, and beer of all sorts, in bottle, per gallon	0	2
Coffee, chocolate and cocoa, per pound	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Currants, raisins, and other dried fruits, per pound	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Spirits, or strong waters, of the strength of proof by Sykes's hydrometer, and so on in proportion of any greater or less strength, per gallon, viz :		
Brandy	0	0
Gin	0	0
Rum, whisky, and all other spirits, per gallon	4	0
Perfumed spirits, of whatever strength, in bottles, for every gallon	4	0
All spirits, liqueurs, cordials, brandied fruits, or strong waters, respectively sweetened or mixed with any article so that the degree of strength thereof cannot be ascertained by Sykes's hydrometer, at the rate of, per gallon	6	0
Refined sugar, per cwt.	3	4
Unrefined sugar, per cwt.	2	6
Molasses, per cwt.	1	8
Tea, per pound	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Manufactured tobacco, per pound, 1s. 6d. until the 31st December, 1853, and thereafter, per pound	1	0
Unmanufactured tobacco, per pound, 1s. until the 31st December, 1853, and thereafter	0	3
Cigars and Snuff, per pound	2	0
Wine, not containing more than 25 per cent. of alcohol of a specific gravity of 325, at the temperature of 60 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, in wood or in bottle, per gallon	1	0
Drawback upon the exportation of refined sugar made in the Colony, per cwt.	3	4
Drawback on refined sugar, known as bastard sugar, per cwt.	2	6